

A CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITY



Managing the Care of Patients With HER2-Positive Breast Cancer: A Collaborative Practice Model

A continuing education article for doctors of nursing practice, nurse practitioners, physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses including clinical nurse specialists, and other advanced degree nurses.

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Activity Rationale and Purpose

Providers use many frequently prescribed drugs across disease states without a clear understanding of their mechanisms: which targets they hit, what processes they alter, which of these actions are the key to therapeutic efficacy, and which are responsible for toxicity. Breast cancer expert faculty identified a lack of understanding of HER2 testing that is now standard practice for women with breast cancer, although it is not always clear which test to use and how test results impact selection of therapy.

Neoadjuvant therapy for patients with HER2-positive breast cancer can enhance resectability and reduce tumor burden prior to surgery and/or radiation therapy and may enhance outcomes.

Oncology nurses and other advanced practitioners need to understand the potential benefits of neoadjuvant therapy for HER2-positive breast cancer, the scientific basis for new HER2-targeted treatments that could improve neoadjuvant responses and/or tumor resectability, and in many cases educate patients and support them in the decision process.

Intended Audience

The activity's target audience will consist of doctors of nursing practice, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physicians, advanced practice nurses including clinical nurse specialists, and other advanced degree nurses.

Learning Objectives

After completing this educational activity, participants should be able to:

1. Describe scientific updates and key practice changes in the management of locally advanced and metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer
2. Review HER2 testing guidelines for patients with breast cancer
3. Discuss best sequencing of FDA approved targeted agents, mechanism of action and toxicities
4. Explain the role of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in HER2-positive breast cancer, including use of HER2-targeted agents
5. Describe collaboration between various members of the healthcare team (including but not limited to physician, nurse practitioner, and pharmacist) in management strategies for patients with locally advanced and metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer

Continuing Education

Statement of Credit—Participants who successfully complete this activity (including the submission of the post-test and evaluation form) will receive a statement of credit.



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