

MEETING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN WITH OVARIAN CANCER

Joint Gynaecological Oncology forum
Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce & Cancer Institute NSW
17 October 2008

Background

The GMCT Gynaecological Oncology (GO) Network has been operating jointly as a NSW Oncology Group since 2006. The focus of the committee has included:

- Equity of access for all women with gynaecological cancer in NSW
- Clinician Education
- Referral to and management by a Multidisciplinary care team (MDT)
- Primary surgery to be performed by a gynaecological oncologist
- Palliative Care issues

In response to these issues, the GMCT GO Committee and the Cancer Institute NSW held a joint one day forum to discuss and demonstrate the ideal multidisciplinary care GO patients should receive. The day also featured the launch of the Clinical Best Practice Gynaecological Cancer Palliative Care 2008 document.

Forum summary

The forum was held on Friday 17 October 2008 at the Australian Technology Park in Eveleigh, NSW. It was facilitated by Norman Swan, and featured educational hypotheticals, with an actor presenting three patient scenarios to panels of clinicians.

Evaluation and Outcomes

Eighty eight per cent of responding participants evaluated the day as very good/excellent.

The evaluation highlighted key issues and a need for:

- Appropriate and timely referral to gynaecological oncologist in a specialist setting
- Multidisciplinary care through the patient experience
- Early diagnosis
- Special planning for rural patients
- Psychosocial support for patient and family
- Appropriate and timely introduction of palliative care
- Better clinical communication
- Ongoing education of primary care clinicians

Forum Resources

A learning DVD has been produced from the forum, with 500 copies being distributed to clinicians and managers throughout NSW in February 2009, and uploaded onto the Cancer Institute NSW and GMCT websites.

For more information, please contact

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