

Lung Cancer: New Horizons

Moffitt Corporate Partners Steering Committee Meeting, 13 May 2010

Guest Speaker: Mary C. Pinder-Schenck, MD

By Lori S. Goldsmith, SPHR, GPHR

For many years, I have been serving on the Moffitt Corporate Partners Steering Committee. We are ambassadors for Moffitt, and a Moffitt researcher is always invited to present at our quarterly meetings. Dr. Pinder-Schenck gave an excellent presentation. She has an uncanny ability to speak in terms that a non-scientist can relate to and she shared some interesting facts and figures about lung cancer that were quite surprising to me.

First, some background on Dr. Mary C. Pinder-Schenck, MD, of Moffitt's Experimental Therapeutics and Thoracic Oncology department: Dr. Pinder-Schenck's research interests are in bringing novel agents and combinations into the clinic for patients with thoracic malignancies. She is interested in uncovering clinical and molecular data which will allow clinicians to better tailor therapies to individual patients and tumors.

From the clinical side, Dr. Pinder-Schenck is particularly interested in the care of women with lung cancer.

Lung Cancer Facts & Figures:

- Lung cancer is the 2nd most prevalent cancer in both men and women.
- Most common cause of cancer death.
- Lung cancer in the U.S. is 2nd to heart disease.
- More woman die of lung cancer than breast, uterine and ovarian cancer combined.
- 20% of lung cancer patients have never smoked.
- China – high incidence of lung cancer in women who have never smoked.
- Lung cancer appears 30-40 years after the initial exposure.
- HPV can appear anywhere in the body – neck and throat cancer is rising and linked to HPV – there may be a potential link to lung cancer as well.
- Caloric restriction reduces the risk.
- Women are more likely to develop lung cancer in response to smoking – also more likely to survive.
- Anti-estrogens have been found to reduce lung tumor growth in mice – human testing is going on now.
- Cervical cancer is also associated with lung cancer.
- PARP inhibitors (help repair damaged DNA) showing promise with breast and ovarian cancer – attack the cancer without heavy side effects – obstacle; longer treatment period before results are realized.
- Vaccine study – using patients' own immune cells.
- Lung cancer is the least funded - most funding comes from the government in the form of smoking cessation programs.

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