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POSTER

SUNSET HAEMATOLOGY: IMPROVING THE END-OF-LIFE JOURNEY FOR PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS, IN PATIENTS WITH HAEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES

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BACKGROUND AND AIM

Haematologic Malignancies (HM) are diverse diseases with differing illness trajectories and therapeutic pathways. Unfortunately, HM patients may rapidly and unexpectedly clinically deteriorate, resulting in suboptimal engagement of palliative and end-of-life (EOL) care. Compared to patients with solid tumors, HM patients have many different factors affecting their end-of-life (EOL) journey. Uniquely, a subset of HM patients with bone marrow failure (BMF) can be supported for significant, but highly

variable, periods of time with red blood cell transfusions (RBCT), platelet transfusions (PT) and prophylactic antibiotics. Availability of chronic RBCTs and PTs make HM patients with BMF similar to elderly and poor prognosis patients with end stage kidney disease (ESKD). Multidisciplinary Palliative Supportive Care programs have been shown to be effective for these ESKD patients and may serve as supportive care models for EOL journey in HM patients. This project is a pilot study aiming to provide a template for management of EOL for patients with HM with BMF, and their care-givers.

METHODS

Three components are being developed: 1) Survey of patient opinions around treatment decision-making. 2) Analyses of the impact of patient, disease, and treatment factors on the probability of survival from start of PT, to inform patients. 3) Collaborative involvement between Haematology and Palliative Care staff involved in the local ESKD program, to develop a template for earlier EOL pathway planning in HM patients.

CONCLUSION

Progress of work to date will be presented, including preliminary findings and next steps. ■