



Patient Power

Can Experts Treat Two Cancers at the Same Time?

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Andrew Schorr:

Now, some patients have more than one condition, actually Nancy wrote in, and she has ALL as well as myeloma. How do you deal with that, and we had somebody else with CLL and myeloma. So how do you kind of unpack this?

Dr. Berenson:

Well, CLL and myeloma, I have a fair number of patients with both, which is kind of interesting, and CLL with those folks is really no big deal for me to treat. And usually the drugs that work in CLL work in myeloma and vice versa, including drugs like our new kid on the block, venetoclax (Venclexta). So that's not as difficult.

ALL can be more troubling, and unfortunately ALL can be a result of therapies. So we know that some of the transplant procedures, immunomodulatory agents, those drugs can clearly heighten the risk of ALL.

Andrew Schorr:

Wow. Okay. Back to the CLL situation, somebody wrote in, Jean, so you can treat both simultaneously?

Dr. Berenson:

Oh, yes.

Andrew Schorr:

Okay. ALL, more...

Dr. Berenson:

...it's more complicated.

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