



Daniel Fitzgerald Clinical Nurse Consultant Melanoma

CNC Role, Financial and Emotional support for Melanoma Patients

What role Does the CNC play in diagnosed Melanoma patients?



Triage of referrals



Point of call for patients during treatment



Education role before and during treatment.



Survivorship



Coordination of care



Toxicity management

Cancer Care Coordinators in Metro North

Melanoma

Gynae/Hepatobiliary

Haematology x 2

First Nations CNC

Thyroid/Brachytherapy

Breast cancer McGrath
Nurses

Genitourinary McGrath
Nurse

Prostate Specialist
Nurse

UGI, Colorectal

Adolescent and Young
Adult

Head & Neck/ Brain

Lung/ Sarcoma

TPCH - General
Coordinator and
McGrath Breast Nurse

North Lakes/
Caboolture - General
Coordinator and
McGrath Breast Nurse

Redcliffe - General
Coordinator x2 and
McGrath Breast Nurse

What does this mean for you ?

- Referral pathways
- Wanting guidance on toxicities for your patients
- Resources for patients
- Trying to contact a consultant for advice?
- Knowing patients have a resource person

Referrals from CNC

Allied Health

Social Work

Speech Pathology

Welfare

Dietetics – Malnutrition,
education, supplements

Pharmacy

Occupational therapy

Physiotherapy

Psychology

Community interface
services

Linking patients back in
with GPs for
Survivorship, Skin checks
and management of
IRAEs in the long-term
setting

External Supports

1. Melanoma Patients Australia - National free emotional and practical support line via telephone, Melanoma Nurse Telehealth service, support groups, private Facebook groups, telephone peer-to-peer support, Patient forums
2. Cancer council Queensland - home to treatment transport (15km radius of hospital), treatment lodge, Financial advice, Counselling service (currently experiencing long wait times), support groups, financial support (currently paused, \$200 vouchers)
3. Melanoma Institute Australia - Education material for patients across the treatment pathway, patient booklets by stage, Handouts for ALND, Scanxiety, Neoadjuvant therapy, caring for a loved one with melanoma, lymphoedema, looking after yourself on treatment
4. Exercise group - YMCA offers free 12 week program for cancer patients and survivors, including exercise physiologist, exercise program and dietary advice



Case Study 1

38yo Male

Diagnosed Metastatic Melanoma June 2024 with extensive hepatic mets, nodal, spinal and osseous mets, BRAF MUTANT

Previous WLE Melanoma 2020

History of Depression (2020) due to relationship breakdown

History of financial issues – Bankruptcy – owns business as a plumber

Case study 1

Pt commenced on Doublet immunotherapy by Medical Oncologist

Offered Psychology services, social work, Melanoma Patients Australia supports (Telehealth nurse support, support groups, peer to peer chats), cancer council counselling . Denied needing any support at diagnosis and did not engage with these services.

Patient offered support through welfare team for Income protection, Super-annuation access but patient chose to continue working full-time.

Case Study 1



At future reviews patient is identified as having avoidant/denial personality and does not engage well with medical team.

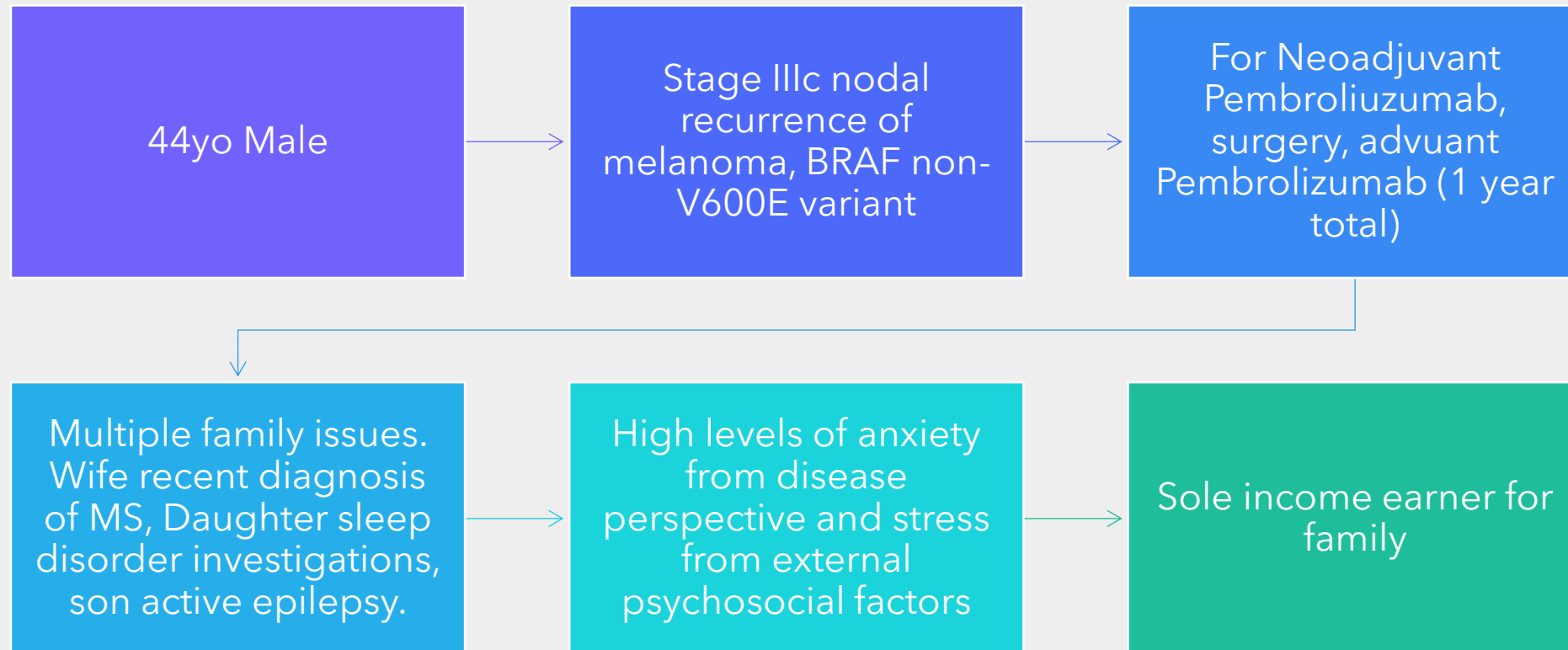


This leaves a question of is it safe to treat someone with high chance of toxicities when they may not report symptoms.

- Link in with family/Friends
- **In April, patient has progressive disease and is changed to BRAF/MEK inhibitor**
- Patient states no boundaries to starting treatment
- Education and reinforcement on importance of starting treatment.
- Liaising with Pharmacy
- Form plan with family again
- CNC follow up and monitoring
- Patient at all times has access to CNC mobile phone and email.
- Adapt reviews to suit the patients' preferences

Questions/Discussion

Case Study 2



Case Study 2

Early consultation
with Surgical team

Referral to
Psychology

Referral to welfare

Education

Toxicity and
psychosocial
checks throughout
treatment

Pt access to my
number and email

External support
information

Melanoma Institute
Australia
leaflets/info

Phone review with
patient pre- and
post-surgery

Survivorship



Questions/discussion



End of Presentation

Thank you