

**The dynamics of the  
multidisciplinary approach in  
cancer**

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- A. The treatment of the cancer patient demands a strategy, not *ad Hoc* therapy.
- B. The design of strategy demands a multidisciplinary approach.
- C. The multidisciplinary approach is needed at every step.  
Diagnosis, staging and treatment.

# The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 1: diagnosis*

## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 1*: diagnosis**

- a) The diagnosis of cancer is too serious a diagnosis to be left to the pathologist alone.**
- b) The treating physician, the diagnostic radiologist, and the laboratory specialists have a significant role in making the diagnosis.**



## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 1*: diagnosis**

- c) The diagnosis of cancer should always be confirmed by other pathologists.**
- d) The final diagnosis should not be made before the pathologists and the treating physician discuss the diagnosis.**

## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 1*: diagnosis**

- e) When the pathological diagnosis does not coincide with the clinical profile of the disease, it should be challenged.**
- f) In making a diagnosis, the histopathological expression of the disease is no longer enough. The molecular and biological profile of the disease should be clearly delineated because the latter has a direct impact on the choice of the treatment plan.**

## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 1*: diagnosis**

- g) The technology for delineating the nature of the biological profile of cancer is only available in a few medical centers. There is an acute need to develop this technology all over the world.**



**Unless the diagnosis is definitive  
and unequivocal, the strategy of  
therapy will be inappropriate**



# The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 2: staging*

## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 2*: staging**

- a) A definitive diagnosis and precise stage are a must for the design of proper strategy.**
- b) Stage is only precise after a thorough evaluation is done.**

## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 2*: staging**

- c) In most patients a thorough evaluation may necessitate expensive diagnostic imaging studies like PET scans, MRI and tomography studies which are limited by insurance and government rules.**
- d) Stage is rarely precise if the diagnostic radiologist does not discuss and review the findings with the treating physician.**

## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 2*: staging**

- e) The findings of the different imaging studies done on a patient should eventually be stitched together by one single radiologist.**
- f) If a finding on imaging studies has a direct impact on the choice of therapy, it has to be confirmed by pathological diagnosis.**



# The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 3: treatment*

## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 3*: treatment**

- a) The strategy of therapy should only be designed after the confirmation of the diagnosis and the completion of the staging process.**
- b) Design of strategy should then be made by a group of experts from diagnostic radiology, pathology, medical oncology, surgical oncology and radiation oncology.**

## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 3*: treatment**

- c) This group should physically meet and review all radiological and pathological material relating to the patient.**
- d) The most common mistake made in cancer therapy is that these multidisciplinary consultations are usually done sequentially whereby the patient sees every expert alone.**

## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 3*: treatment**

- e) The key to the success of the multidisciplinary approach is to make certain that there is one leader in the group, and that leader should be the treating physician.**
- f) The expert group who formulates the strategy of therapy should reconvene regularly at every turn of treatment and after completing every phase of therapy.**



## **The multidisciplinary approach at *Step 3*: treatment**

- g) At all times the group experts should be posted as to the progress of the patient.**

# OBJECTIVES OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

- a) The major objective is to make sure that the patient is receiving the best treatment that would provide him with the best chance for cure.**
- b) This approach provides the patient with the psychological comfort and peace he needs.**

## **The objective of multidisciplinary approach**

- c) It significantly reduces the risk of making errors in treatment.**
- d) It strengthens the bond of trust between the doctor and the patient.**



**It is the ultimate right of the patient to receive nothing less than the best treatment, and it should be the utmost pride for the physician to provide this treatment**