

B-Cell Malignancies:

Improving Outcomes Through Progress in Biology and Therapy

Content Reviewer

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Target Audience

The target audience for the program will include hematologists, hematologist-oncologists, and allied healthcare professionals caring for patients with hematologic malignancies.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this educational activity, participants should be better able to:

- Describe the importance of diagnostic and pathologic evaluation of B-cell malignancies
- Understand the rationale for the development and integration of treatment strategies in B-cell malignancies
- Examine clinical trial results of treatment regimens, both containing novel agents and combinations, in patients with B-cell malignancies

For the first time in years, several advances have been made in the management of B-cell malignancies, including improved survival as a result of the integration of monoclonal antibodies and the introduction of novel therapies. Despite these improvements, several issues remain. Where do the available therapies for B-cell malignancies fit within the context of currently accepted treatment standards? How should novel therapies for B-cell malignancies be integrated? What about sequencing? Can novel therapies be used in combination regimens? What are the most rational combination regimens for B-cell malignancies? What side effects can be expected from these novel therapy combinations? It is well-noted that Canada and European countries are able to accrue participants for clinical trials faster than the United States for a myriad of reasons, and significant data regarding the treatment of hematologic malignancies has been derived from large phase III clinical trials conducted in Europe and Canada. Clinical results from European and Canadian trials are continually highlighted in the published literature and national/international meetings. US-based practitioners, charged with the care of patients with B-cell malignancies, must have in-depth knowledge of current preclinical and clinical data in order to make the most appropriate treatment-related decisions for his/her patients with a B-cell malignancy and must understand the placement of said data in the context of the American patient.

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