

New Cancers after Transplant: What You Can Do to Reduce Your Risk

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Presentation is 25 minutes long followed by 17 minutes of Q&A.

Summary: New cancers can develop after a stem cell transplant. This presentation describes what types of cancers may develop, risk factors, and steps you can take to prevent and detect new cancers after transplant.

Key Points

- Stem cell transplant survivors have a higher risk of developing a new cancer than the general population. These are called secondary cancers.
- Patients who were transplanted with their own stem cells (autologous transplant) have an increased risk for developing a new blood cancer. Patients who were treated with stem cells from a donor (allogeneic transplant) have a higher risk of developing a solid tumor.
- Although most transplant recipients will not develop a secondary cancer, monitoring for new cancers is important so that if a cancer develops, it can be treated promptly.

Highlights

(05:05) Different types of cancers are seen after a transplant that uses the patient's own stem cells (autologous transplant) than are seen after a transplant that uses donor stem cells (allogeneic transplant).

(05:35) Chemotherapy, radiation, immunosuppression, infections, and chronic inflammation are all factors that create an increased risk of developing secondary cancers.

(06:11) There are three types of secondary cancers: blood cancers, solid tumor cancers, and post-transplant lymphoproliferative diseases.

(06:50) The most common secondary cancers are acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndrome.

(07:42) Blood cancers are much more common in patients who were transplanted with their own stem cells (autologous transplant) than in patients who were transplanted with donor cells (allogeneic transplant).

(09:16) There have been many changes in the chemotherapy given prior to transplant to reduce the risk of secondary cancers.

(14:24) The most common secondary solid cancers are breast cancers, thyroid cancers, central nervous system cancers, sarcoma, and melanoma. Cancers associated with graft-versus-host disease are skin cancers, squamous cell carcinoma.

(24:05) The risk of developing solid tumors such as skin cancer does not decrease over the years. It is important to continue monitoring for solid tumors throughout your life.

(24:23) After transplant, taking steps to remain in the best physical shape possible can help reduce the risk of secondary cancers.