Ten Best Readings on Cancer in the Elderly

The 10 best recent articles in the medical literature relating to cancer in the elderly are reviewed here.


This randomized multicenter study demonstrates the effectiveness of a non-platinum-based regimen in older patients. The well-tolerated regimen is a promising treatment for these patients. The study also includes an evaluation of comorbidity.


This article demonstrates that the ECOG performance status provides limited information as to the health status of older cancer patients. Other indicators need to be integrated in the analysis of these patients.


Patients aged 65 or older are substantially underrepresented in studies of cancer treatment. This article highlights the necessity of enrolling more older patients into clinical trials.


This article provides an excellent review of the molecular features that are relevant to both cancer and aging. This entire issue of Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America addresses cancer in the elderly.


This epidemiological article on cancer among the very elderly in the United States describes the incidence rates and sites of cancer, the causes of death, and gender/ethnic variations in this age group.


This article is an excellent example of how tools created for geriatric use can fruitfully be integrated in oncologic decision making.


This key study demonstrates unequivocally that older patients should not be denied standard chemotherapy in non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.


These twin articles review the available tools and data on comorbidity for the clinical investigator who intends to design studies addressing the issue of comorbidity in older cancer patients.


Not all opiates are equivalent. Side effects, notably constipation, which can create significant problems in the elderly, need to be taken into account when assessing treatment options.