Jane Hippenmeyer, Gen Med (Los Angeles) 2018, Volume 6
DOI: 10.4172/2327-5146-C2-004

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Introducing biosimilar therapeutic products in oncology: The critical need for nurse education

European nurses have had experience with biosimilar molecules in oncology for over 10 years. However, these biosimilars were of small molecule supportive care drugs including granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-CSF) and erythropoietin (EPO). Currently the large molecule therapeutic monoclonal antibodies are arriving in hospitals as the patents for drugs such as MabThera, Herceptin and Avastin expire. In order for patient acceptance and healthcare providers (HCP) adoption for successful cost savings to the health care systems, the role of the nurse in patient education will be critical. The pathway leading to regulatory approval should be understood by nurses so that they can properly educate patients on these therapies. In addition, a proper understanding of the creation and manufacturing of these biologic products should be appreciated. A discussion guide for use by nurses with their patients will be proposed to the auidence for consideration. Questions regarding common misunderstandings will be addressed during this session.

Biography

Jane Hippenmeyer completed her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in the USA at the Philadelphia University of the Sciences. She held the position of Drug Information Manager at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York City for a period of seven years before joining the pharmaceutical industry. For the last 14 years, she has worked at Amgen Europe within the Medical Affairs Department focused on the launch of various Oncology Biologic products including Neulasta, XGEVA, Blincyto and most recently the Oncology Biosimilar products, for which she is currently the European Medical Director, preparing for the launch of trastuzumab, bevacizumab and rituximab biosimilars.

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