

The Future Is Bright



The diagnosis of multiple myeloma (MM) is a life-changing event for both the patient and his or her caregivers. Fortunately, great strides have been made in the diagnostic and prognostic processes, which then guide risk-adapted treatment. This precision-driven treatment approach, together with refinement of supportive care strategies, has improved patient outcomes. The development of novel agents, all of which are a result of clinical trials and advances in the basic sciences over the past 2 decades, has improved overall survival for patients with MM—so much so that for many patients, the disease is considered chronic in nature. However, for most patients, relapses remain inevitable, and treatment is likely to be “for life.” Each relapse brings new challenges, and each episode of care creates patient and caregiver vulnerability. Health-care providers and support organizations are critical to providing support and guidance.

The rapidly shifting treatment paradigm, although a welcomed change, has implications for providers. Assimilating the rapidly evolving scientific advances and effectively integrating these into the care of patients living with MM is necessary to achieve optimal outcomes. This supplement to the *Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology* (JADPRO) provides a series of papers to help guide the advanced practitioner in the clinical management of MM. It has been developed by members of the International Myeloma Foundation Nurse Leadership Board, a professional nursing partnership representing leading cancer centers and community practices in the United States with the primary mission of understanding and developing strategies to address the unmet needs of myeloma patients and their caregivers.

It is our hope that the content in this supplement will support the facilitation of care and positively affect outcomes, including quality of life for patients with myeloma and their caregivers throughout the continuum of care.

—Sandra Kurtin, RN, MSN, AOCN®, ANP-C
Guest Editor

A Note on the Cover Illustration

The cover of this supplement depicts a patient with newly diagnosed MM embarking on his journey. He is accompanied by a caregiver, who is essential to effectively navigating the challenges ahead. The road represents the continuum of care for MM, starting with the life-changing diagnosis of active disease (steep incline), the initiation of treatment (peak), and the goal of achieving minimal residual disease negative status early in the course of disease. Living with MM will bring more challenges (the winding road), but the future is bright.

About the Artists

David and Alexandra Baker are the team of biomedical artists behind DNA Illustrations, which specializes in custom concept illustrations for editorial and advertising use. These award-winning illustrators each have over twenty years of experience working with images for surgery, pathology, anatomy, disease processes, patient education, mechanism of action, new research in many scientific fields, pharmacology, embryology, and immunology. You can see more of their custom illustrations on the covers of each issue of *JADPRO*.

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