An Outcomes Approach to Developing European CME Activities For Oncologists: Tips For Providers  
Lichti, AC and Riccio, D | Physicians’ Education Resource®, LLC (PER®)

Abstract

Whether part of institutional based grand rounds or during global conferences and online delivery formats, physicians use CME activities to help improve the care they provide to their patients. As accredited providers, it is essential for us to work with faculty experts to distill their knowledge and competence with complex clinical issues and translate that information to practitioners in a variety of practice settings.

Methods

The 1st Annual European Congress on Immunotherapies™ was part of a blended learning initiative consisting of a live congress (held in Barcelona, Spain) and an online enduring material – both case-based in design to facilitate improvements in knowledge and competence among learners from a variety of clinical practice settings. Using a case-based format ensured that clinicians with varying levels of expertise could apply data about PD-L1 testing, adverse event monitoring and mitigation, identifying optimal counseling strategies for their patients who have cancer. Objective data were gathered from learners via an audience response system and baseline knowledge and competence levels were compared against immediate post-activity levels.

Results

Summary of Outcomes Result:

Learners demonstrated an improvement in awareness and knowledge relative to the ability of patients to sustain a response after pembrolizumab discontinuation (attendees selecting the target response increased from 76% to 87%).

Stages of Learning Achieved:

Awareness and Knowledge

Need for Continued Education:

The extremely low proportion of baseline confidence knowledge (15%) suggests that there is a need for continuing education among community practitioners on this topic.

Clinical Importance of Education:

The KEYNOTE-001 trial demonstrated that 60 patients with a complete response to pembrolizumab were able to maintain this response for a median of 10 months after treatment discontinuation. These data suggest that pembrolizumab offers long-term survival benefits for a subset of patients (Robert C, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2016;34(suppl, abstr 9503).

Summary of Outcomes Result:

Learners demonstrated an improvement in awareness and knowledge relative to the rational for combining pembrolizumab and asprin for ovarian cancer (attendees selecting the target response increased from 76% to 87%).

Stages of Learning Achieved:

Awareness and Knowledge

Need for Continued Education:

The low level proportion of baseline confidence knowledge (24%) identifies an educational gap among community practitioners related to the use of biomarkers in cancer treatment.

Clinical Importance of Education:

The majority of oncologists (as evidenced by pre-activity scores) appear to have already incorporated the management of cytokine release syndrome (CRS) caused by CAR-T/CD19-specific antibody T-cell therapy into their practice.

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Conclusions

The results of this CME initiative, including oncologists’ self-reported planned practice changes, and insights about remaining knowledge and competence gaps (across live and online educational formats) were used to develop the 2nd Annual European Congress on Immunotherapies in Cancer™ – a 2-day live meeting focused exclusively on immunotherapies and their practical application to the management of cancer. Using the outcomes data from previous to current iterations, the organizers worked through the multi-step needs assessment and gap analysis process which is the foundation for developing these educational activities.

References


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The majority of oncologists already understand the predictive ability of tumor neoantigen burden in NSCLC.