ABC/mBC-specific

Reusable Wound Kits for malignant fungating breast wounds (MFBW)

Volunteer Nurses and BC Welfare Association Malaysia for Haliku Foundation (Alola)

OVERVIEW: Women with malignant fungating breast wounds (MFBW) experience limited healthcare support in Timor Leste. This initiative saw a team of Australian volunteer nurses travel to Timor Leste to provide patients with reusable wound care kits, as well as educational support to allow women to self-manage MFBW, maintaining their dignity and subsequently improving QoL.

Area of focus:
Support for patients with ABC/mBC

Target population:
Patients with MFBW living in remote communities

Objectives: Improve management of MFBW in remote communities with MFBW. Improve QoL of women living with MFCW by allowing them to self-manage their wounds

Unmet needs addressed:

- Limited wound care resources and healthcare support for women with MFBW
- Fear of Western medicine preventing patients from seeking care

Key components:

- Reusable wound care kits distributed with educational guidelines for use in local language
- Suggestions on sourcing/substituting locally available materials
- Education of local health workers to supervise distribution and use of the wound kits

Challenges: Language barriers and cultural differences, as well as difficulty assessing local needs from Australia, proved challenging. Nurses learnt the basics of Tetun language to help with this. Project time constraints limited opportunities for relationship building between the volunteers and local health care workers

Outcomes: Approximately 40 wound care kits were delivered during the first visit and 2 women are known to be using the kits (early stage, so no evaluation as of yet) and community engagement by Haliku staff

Development: The wound care kits were made by volunteer nurses, who travelled to Timor Leste to deliver the kits and offer education. The initiative required fuel, food for communities and development of written resources

Cost: <€5,000 (including cost of Haliku staff wages)

Timeline: 2019–present – planned for nurses to travel annually for a minimum of 2 years

Targeted to reach: <30

For more information:
https: https://www.alolafoundation.org/
Email: jo.lovelock@bigpond.com; rosegillies64@outlook.com

Based on written submission from Jo Lovelock, Alola, 2020. The Hard-to-Reach ABC/mBC Communities Toolkit was developed as a collaboration between Pfizer Oncology and the ABC Global Alliance, with funding and support provided by Pfizer. ABC Global Alliance members and Pfizer colleagues were invited to submit breast cancer community-based initiatives that address specific needs of underserved patient populations with advanced/metastatic breast cancer. Initiatives were evaluated against criteria determined by a steering committee with members from both Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance. Initiatives were selected for inclusion in the toolkit to highlight best practices in addressing the unique needs of this patient population. All organizations who submitted their initiatives for consideration have provided permission for the initiative information to be included in the toolkit and shared publicly. Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance bear no responsibility for the contents of the toolkit.