

About Interventional Oncology

Interventional Oncology (IO) Awareness Week is an initiative focused on increasing knowledge and improving awareness of IO therapies as a treatment and care option for cancer patients worldwide.



The Four Pillars of Modern Oncology Care



What is IO?

IO therapies use image-guided, minimally invasive procedures to target cancer and cancer-related diseases deep inside the body. Therapies are delivered through incisions in the skin as small as pinholes, reducing time, pain, and risk to cancer patients. As the fastest growing pillar of modern oncology care, IO is driven by technological innovation and focused on three main areas of cancer intervention:

1. Diagnosis
2. Therapy
3. Symptom management



IO and Liver Cancer

October is also Liver Cancer Awareness Month. There are two types of primary liver cancer in adults – hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma. Both forms of adult primary liver cancer are on the rise; approx. 34,500 people will be diagnosed with liver cancer this year in the United States.

IO therapies are used to manage liver cancer in combination with other forms of cancer treatment or in place of other forms of treatment in which a patient may be too sick to tolerate other treatment. IO therapies can also prolong survival of patients with recurring metastases who have previously been treated with surgery and chemotherapy.



Procedures and Treatment Options

- Transarterial Radioembolization (TARE)
- Transarterial Chemoembolization (TACE)
- Microwave Ablation
- Cryoablation
- Radiofrequency Ablation



Focuses of IO

The interventional oncologist is an essential member of the cancer patient's treatment team. They see patients in the clinic, admit patients to hospitals, serve on tumors boards and multi-disciplinary treatment teams, and play active roles in the diagnosis and management of cancer patients.

Cancer Diagnosis

IO practitioners use image guidance to obtain tissue for cancer diagnosis and individualized care.

Cancer Treatment

IO precisely delivers therapeutic agents into tumors through the use of intravascular catheters and direct intratumoral injection. It targets tumors using image guided delivery of devices and agents to eradicate tumor cells or for combination therapy.

Cancer Symptom and Pain Management

IO symptom relief techniques includes techniques that reduce pain in patients suffering from cancer, improving their quality of life and ability to manage additional cancer treatments.

Benefits to IO include:

- Short out-patient recovery period
- No significant side effects
- Healthy organs are relatively unaffected

Data sources:

Stewart, Jonathan. *The Challenges of Cancer Pain Assessment*. *Ulster Med J*. 2014 Jan; 83(1): 44-46. And Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Various Authors. *Immunotherapy and the Interventional Oncologist: Challenges and Opportunities - A Society of Interventional Oncology White Paper.* *Radiology*. 2019.



Learn more about IO Awareness Week at IOawarenessweek.org