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People Living With Cancer



ASCO
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

PLWC Bulletin

Oncologist-approved cancer information from the American Society of Clinical Oncology

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November 2006

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Cancer and the Holidays

People living with cancer often face unique challenges during the holiday season, ranging from balancing mixed emotions to facing physical limitations that may curb traditional activities. It may also be a time of added stress for caretakers and loved ones. To help, PLWC offers information in its *Coping* section that specifically addresses the issues that can arise, particularly from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day.

Also, if you have a specific question you'd like answered, be sure to send it in for next month's online Q&A on "Tips to Cope with Cancer." Just email your question to chats@plwc.org.

New on PLWC

- **PLWC Reader Survey.** This is the final week to take a short online survey to let PLWC know how you like the site's recent redesign! Results will help guide future growth of PLWC.
- **ASCO Patient Guide: Tumor Markers for Gastrointestinal Cancers.** Based on ASCO's Clinical Practice Guidelines for Physicians, this update covers the use of tumor markers for colorectal and pancreatic cancers.
- **Cancer Advances on Stroke Risk of Childhood Cancer Survivors.** Learn more about a new study indicating that an increased risk of stroke may be among the late effects experienced by long-term survivors of childhood leukemia and brain tumors.
- **"Ask the ASCO Expert" Q&A on Lung Cancer.** This month, Mark Kris, MD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, is answering a wide range of PLWC readers' questions on living with lung cancer.
- **Cancer-Related Syndromes.** PLWC has added four skin cancer-related syndromes to its *Cancer Types* section: familial malignant melanoma, tuberous sclerosis complex, Werner syndrome, and xeroderma pigmentosum.

Upcoming Events on PLWC

Did You Know?

In addition to its recent addition of four skin cancer-related syndromes noted above, PLWC offers detailed information on 26 other cancer-related syndromes as part of its *Cancer Types* section.

In total, PLWC offers specific information on more than 120 types of cancer and cancer-related syndromes, and each section is updated on an annual basis by the **PLWC Editorial Board**. Use the blue navigation bar below to explore the *Cancer Types* section and the other valuable content of PLWC.

Learning About Cancer ▶

Cancer Types ▶

Diagnosis and Treatment ▶

Coping ▶

Survivorship ▶

Library ▶

ASCO Resources ▶

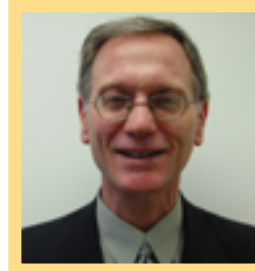
News and Events ▶

For more information about ASCO's patient information resources, visit www.plwc.org or call 888-651-3038.

December 2006: Readers' questions are now being accepted for PLWC's Q&A on "**Tips to Cope with Cancer.**"



Diane Blum, MSW



Les Gallo-Silver, ACSW, LCSW-R



Lidia Schapira, MD



Susan Leigh, RN, BSN

From December 1-31, your questions will be answered on how to handle changes in relationships, self confidence, body image, and sexuality, as well as how to cope with anger, depression, and fear of recurrence. The featured experts are Diane Blum, MSW, CancerCare, Inc.; Les Gallo-Silver, ACSW, LCSW-R, CancerCare, Inc.; Susan Leigh, RN, BSN, Cancer Survivorship Consultant, Oncology Nursing Society; and Lidia Schapira, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital.

Have a question for this "Ask the ASCO Expert" event? Email chats@plwc.org now! PLWC Q&A forums are free of charge, anonymous, and preregistration is not required. Answers to selected questions are posted throughout the month, and full event transcript will be archived in PLWC's *ASCO Resources* section.

Patients' Toolbox

Each month, PLWC offers original **Feature Articles**, which address common challenges for people living with cancer and offer practical, how-to information. The latest Features include a four-part series defining common phrases and terms that people living with cancer may hear:

- **Part I: Cancer Terms to Know: Basic Oncology Terms** explains words that may be used throughout the trajectory of cancer care, such as *antibodies*, *clinical trials*, and *remission*.
- **Part II: Cancer Terms to Know: Newly Diagnosed** is geared to new patients becoming acquainted with such cancer terminology as *acute*, *chronic*, *prognosis*, and *standard of care*.
- **Part III: Cancer Terms to Know: During Treatment** includes basic descriptions of treatments and therapies, such as *adjuvant therapy*, *hormone therapy*, and *targeted treatment*.
- **Part IV: Cancer Terms to Know: After Treatment** outlines some of the key phrases in the language of survivorship, such as *follow-up care plan*, *late effects*, and *progression-free survival*.
- *Don't forget that you can also check out 120+ other **Feature Articles** on PLWC!*

In the News

Here are some of this month's cancer-related news headlines:

- November 13, 2006: Diseased gums raise risk of pancreatic cancer (Reuters Health)
- November 7, 2006: Smoking, drinking lower odds of surviving cancer (Reuters Health)
- November 6, 2006: Tight belts not a factor in esophageal cancer rise (Reuters Health)
- November 1, 2006: CDC plans to subsidize cervical cancer vaccine (Reuters Health)
- November 1, 2006: PSA changes predict prostate cancer outcome (Reuters Health)
- *For more headlines, visit PLWC's News Articles section.*

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world's leading professional organization representing physicians of all oncology subspecialties who care for people with cancer. ASCO's more than 23,000 members from the United States and abroad set the standard for patient care worldwide and lead the fight for more effective cancer treatments, increased funding for clinical and translational research, and, ultimately, cures for the many different types of cancer that strike an estimated 10 million people worldwide each year. In addition to producing the award-winning patient information website *People Living With Cancer* (www.plwc.org), ASCO publishes the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* (JCO), the preeminent, peer-reviewed medical journal on clinical cancer research, and the *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP), the authoritative resource for practicing oncologists making day-to-day decisions regarding clinical and administrative management.

