



PLWC Bulletin

Oncologist-approved cancer information from the American Society of Clinical Oncology & The ASCO Foundation

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April 2007

✉ FORWARD TO A FRIEND >>

In the News: Cancer Recurrence

Over the past month, there has been a wave of media attention regarding the cancer recurrences of Elizabeth Edwards (breast cancer) and Tony Snow (colon cancer). It is possible that such high-profile and ongoing news stories may trigger fears in other cancer survivors about their own health.

To help, PLWC offers resources on how people can cope with *fear of recurrence*, including tips for facing fear and anxiety, expressing feelings, staying well-informed, continuing regular follow-up care, and reducing stress.

New on PLWC

- **ASCO Patient Guide: Hormone Therapy for Advanced Prostate Cancer.** Learn more about ASCO's newly updated recommendations regarding treatment strategies for androgen-sensitive prostate cancer.
- **Expert Perspective from ASCO on MRI Breast Cancer Screening.** Read perspectives from ASCO members on the role of magnetic resonance imaging for screening women at high risk for breast cancer.
- **Cancer Advances: Partners of Cancer Survivors.** A new study shows that partners of cancer survivors have many of the same stresses as the survivors themselves, but receive less care and attention for them.
- **Cancer Advances: Breast Cancer.** Two recent studies about breast cancer survival rates are summarized. The first study finds that, among women with breast cancer, two specific groups have seen the greatest declines in deaths. The second study analyzes the racial differences in male breast cancer survival.
- **New Slide Deck for Health-care Professionals.** If you give patient or community group presentations, check out the PLWC Slide Deck Series. These customizable slide decks provide reliable, oncologist-approved information in a turn-key PowerPoint presentation. The latest addition to the series is *Understanding Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma*.

Did You Know?

It's the time of the year when sign-up deadlines are approaching for summer camps, including those designed for children with cancer or who have a family member with cancer. Parents interested in a fun vacation for their child may want to start by reading the recently updated PLWC Feature Article: ***Camps/ Retreats for Families and Children Touched by Cancer***, which lists a variety of programs available across the country.

To learn more about how to talk to a child about cancer, explore PLWC's information on *Relationships and Cancer*, found in the site's *Coping* section. Use the blue navigation bar below to visit this and other sections of www.plwc.org.

This Week on PLWC

ASCO Expert Corner: Informed Consent

A new “**ASCO Expert Corner**” **Feature Article** explains the importance of the informed consent process during clinical trials and how patients can learn more about the strong safety measures in place for their protection during these important research studies.

In this PLWC Feature Article, Richard Schilsky, MD, answers commonly asked questions about informed consent. Dr. Schilsky is a Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Clinical Research at the University of Chicago and Chairman, Cancer and Leukemia Group B, a national clinical research group sponsored by the National Cancer Institute.

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 continuations of two special series:

- **Guest Author Series: Part II: Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation: Special Types of Transplantation** and **Part III: Side Effects of Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation** are part of a four-article series designed to help patients who are considering transplantation. PLWC's special guest author is Edward Agura, MD, Director of the Program in Blood and Marrow Transplant at Baylor University Medical Center.
- **Bone Scan—What to Expect** offers a full description of what happens before, during, and after this common imaging test used to learn more about bone damage, from cancer and due to other causes.

Learning About Cancer ▶

Cancer Types ▶

Diagnosis and Treatment ▶

Coping ▶

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

- **Mammography—What to Expect** explains what a patient can anticipate happening when having this type of x-ray specifically designed to view the breast.
- *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:

- April 11, 2007: Acupuncture, massage helpful after cancer surgery (Reuters Health)
- April 11, 2007: Genes gang up to help cancer spread, study finds (Reuters Health)
- April 11, 2007: Age no bar to brain cancer treatment - study (Reuters Health)
- April 9, 2007: Ovarian cancer treatment sub par in many women (Reuters Health)
- April 6, 2007: Culture a barrier to Pap tests for Mexican women (Reuters Health)
- April 2, 2007: Researchers find genetic links to prostate cancer (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 nearly 25,000 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.

