



Perspectives on Side Effect Management

Dr. Lisa Lancaster: Hi, I'm Dr. Lisa Lancaster here in Toronto with Dr. Maria Padilla, and we're discussing new strategies in management and diagnosis in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Certainly, with these new medications, we have experienced side effects with the patients, and we're trying to work to manage those side effects. What ways do you manage your patient's side effects?

Dr. Maria Padilla: I think that one of the most important things to do with our patients is the education that comes up front. Set their expectations for the treatment that they're about to receive. To outline potential side effects of these medications and then to be able to manage these side effects as they arise. Let them understand that the process is one of slowing the progression of the disease, and if they understand this. We know that loss of function equates to eventually decreased survival, so we want to maintain as much function as we possibly can in all our patients. That's why I think education, setting expectations, discussing the potential side effects and being able to deal with these side effects if it means down titrating or having a different kind of titration strategy for these patients is important. Teaching them about their food intake with the medications so that they will be able to tolerate some of the side effects better. I think all of these are important issues that we discuss with the patients.

Dr. Lisa Lancaster: Absolutely. You brought up the points of dose reduction, dose holiday, if necessary.

Dr. Maria Padilla: Absolutely.

Dr. Lisa Lancaster: And slow titration. That may be critical as well as treating symptomatic side effects with diarrhea with perhaps imodium. All those things are really important, and taking things gradually to get patients back to what we think is full therapeutic dose is important.