Rare genitourinary malignancies: where do we stand?

Rare genitourinary malignancies remain a diverse and often challenging subset of tumor types for clinicians to care for. There are a number of reasons for the resulting challenges imparted in caring for these patients including the infrequent number of cases cared for within large healthcare systems as well as the paucity of prospective studies aimed at redefining the treatment standards for these poorly funded malignancies attracting limited industry support. This dedicated issue of the AME Medical Journal (AMJ) highlights exciting advances which have been made in caring for many of these tumors and encompass the topics of adrenocortical carcinoma, extra-gonadal germ cell, melanoma, penile, sarcoma, scrotal, and urethral cancers. These featured articles focus on key clinical concepts and treatment principles which offer the most contemporary and evidence based therapeutic approaches for our endearing patients. In addition, several unique and intriguing case presentations detail the challenging dilemmas, healthcare providers are plagued with in managing these cases with an emphasis on multidisciplinary care in which individual specialty expertise and insight allows to formulate a personalized treatment plan aimed at optimizing oncological outcomes as well as accounting for patient expectations and ensuing quality of life. In conclusion, I would like to highlight that advances in genomic profiling and development of exciting novel systemic therapies like combination immunotherapies, tumor vaccines, and/or chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapy often a new horizon of hope and discovery for many patients refractory to conventional therapies and faced with these often debilitating and life-threatening malignancies.

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Footnote

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