

Barriers To Best Practices: A Multidisciplinary Guide for Oncology Dermatologic Toxicities

Bianca Alvarez, MPH, CHES¹; Milan Anadkat, MD²; Jesse Hirner, MD, MS³; Rajan Kulkarni, MD⁴; Beth Sandy, MSN, CRNP, FAPO⁵; Cynthia Ryan, PharmD, BCPS⁶; Ashley Lile, MPH¹; Nicole A. Colwell, MD¹; Kimberly Demirhan, MBA, BSN, RN¹; Molly Kisiel, MSN, FNP-BC¹; and Elana Plotkin, CMP-HC¹

¹Association of Cancer Care Centers, Rockville, MD; ²Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO; ³University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE; ⁴Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR; ⁵Abramson Cancer Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; ⁶University of Colorado Hospital, Aurora, CO



INTRODUCTION

Dermatologic toxicities associated with oncology treatments significantly impact patient quality of life and treatment adherence. The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC) identified barriers to managing dermatologic adverse events and developed the *Preventing and Managing Common Dermatologic Toxicities: A Guide for Clinicians* to improve assessment and management practices.

METHODS

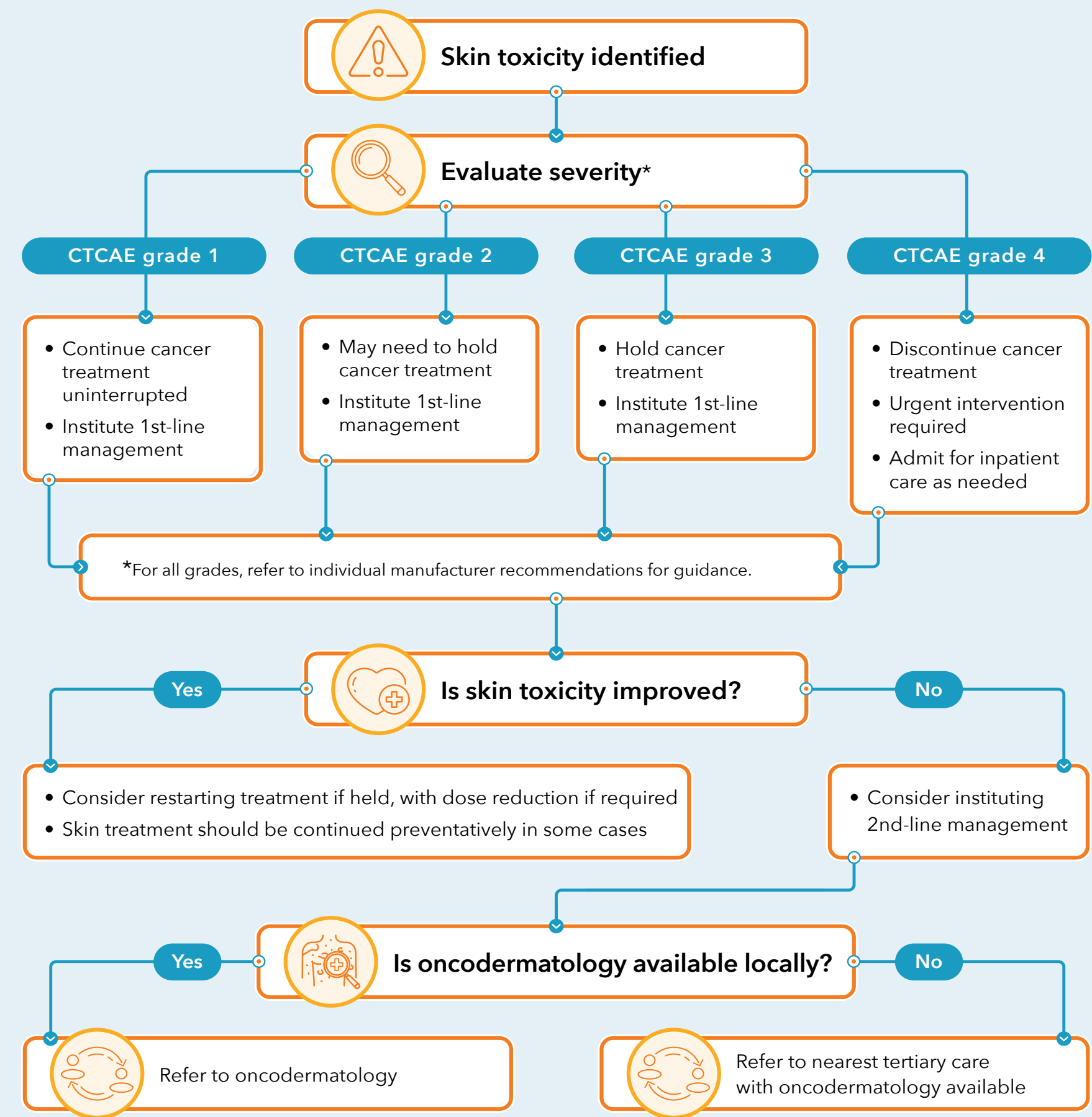
ACCC conducted 2 multidisciplinary provider focus groups (n=15) to explore barriers to providing guideline-concordant care for dermatologic toxicities and strategies to overcome these barriers. Participants included oncologists, dermatologists, nurses, and patient navigators from diverse practice settings nationwide. Using thematic analysis (Table 1) and iterative feedback, a *Clinician Guide* was developed to provide best practices for assessing and managing dermatologic toxicities.

RESULTS

The focus groups identified common barriers, including inadequate reporting and documentation of dermatologic symptoms, limited access to specialized oncodermatology services, and challenges in managing treatment-related side effects. Participants emphasized the need for standardized image documentation protocols, timely dermatologic referrals, and educational resources; thus, the *Clinician Guide* was developed to address these gaps. The guide provides practical solutions and strategies drawn from a representative sample, including a standardized patient photography protocol for symptom documentation, a referral and triage system to prioritize dermatologic consults, a decision-support algorithm for managing common toxicities based on current guidelines, and teledermatology integration to extend specialist access to underserved areas.

FIGURE 1. Clinical Decision-Making for Dermatologic Toxicities

The below flowchart is an excerpt from *Preventing and Managing Common Dermatologic Toxicities: A Guide for Clinicians*.



Example of acneiform rash



Example of onycholysis



Example of hand-foot skin reaction

Images are used with permission from Kao et al.

TABLE 1.

Key Themes	Sub-Themes
Barriers to diagnosing and managing dermatologic side effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accurate reporting and diagnosis• Keeping up with new treatments and technology• Patient awareness and communication• Impact of treatment and diagnosis• Availability of dermatologic expertise.
Innovative strategies and best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same-day consultations• E-consult and teledermatology programs• Patient education and support• Collaboration of multidisciplinary teams.

CONCLUSIONS

The ACCC *Clinician Guide* offers useful tools for the management of dermatologic toxicities in oncology. By standardizing symptom documentation, streamlining referral processes, and promoting multidisciplinary collaboration, the guide addresses barriers that hinder timely and effective care. The guide holds the potential to reduce treatment interruptions, enhance patient quality of life, and improve patient outcomes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CONTACT US

To learn more about this program and gain additional resources, scan the quick response (QR) code or visit accc-cancer.org/dermatologic-toxicities.

For additional information about this program, please reach out to Bianca Alvarez, MPH, CHES, Senior Program Manager, Association of Cancer Care Centers at balvarez@accc-cancer.org.