



Ask ONS: Oncology Nurses Address your Clinical Questions

ONS Oncology Clinical Specialists

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Oncology Clinical Specialists



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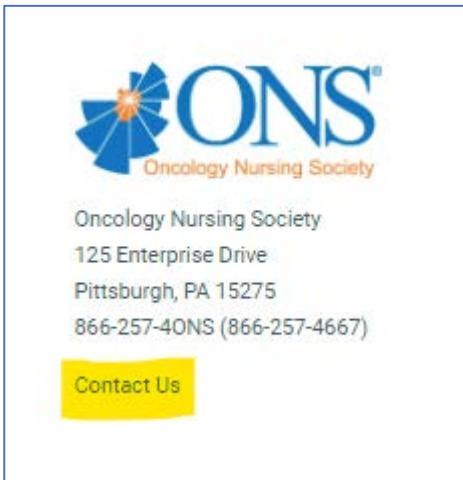


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How to ask ONS clinical questions

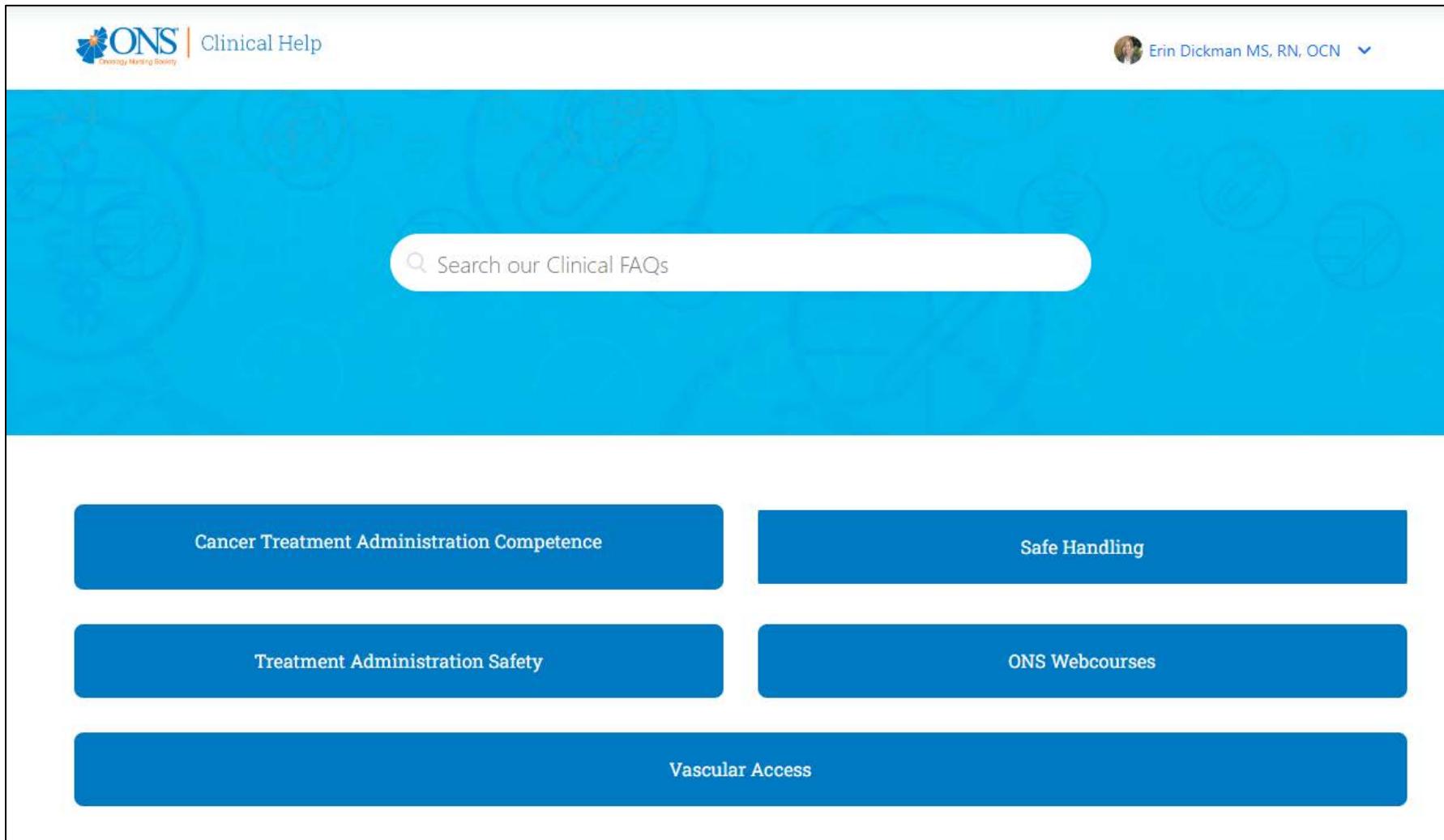
- Submit questions via the website <https://clinicalhelp.ons.org/>
 - Found in the “Contact Us” link at the bottom of ONS.org homepage
 - ONS Member-only benefit



CLINICAL INQUIRIES

If you are unable to find answers to your clinical questions through our online ONS resources and you are an ONS member, reach out to our experienced Oncology Nursing Specialists at our Clinical Helpdesk. We'll get back to you within two business days. Reach out to our experts at <https://clinicalhelp.ons.org>

Clinical FAQs



ONS | Clinical Help

Erin Dickman MS, RN, OCN ▾

Search our Clinical FAQs

Cancer Treatment Administration Competence

Safe Handling

Treatment Administration Safety

ONS Webcourses

Vascular Access

ONS Communities

communities.ons.org

- Reach out and connect with colleagues across the country
- Apply for volunteer opportunities



The screenshot shows the homepage of the ONS Communities website. At the top is the ONS logo with the text "Oncology Nursing Society". Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for HOME, COMMUNITIES, BROWSE, HELP/FAQS, and PARTICIPATE, along with a search bar. The main content area features a large image of two female nurses in blue scrubs looking at a document together. To the right of this image is a dark blue sidebar with the heading "COMMUNITIES" and text encouraging users to connect with other members. At the bottom of the page are two buttons: "LATEST DISCUSSIONS" and "VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES".

Learning Libraries

ons.org/learning-libraries/

- Oncologic Emergencies
- Breast Cancer
- Genomics and Precision Oncology
- Huddle Cards
- Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs
- Care of the Older Adult with Cancer
- Career Development
- Oncology Nursing Podcast
- Colorectal Cancer
- Tobacco, E-Cigarettes and Vaping
- Evidence-Based Practice
- Immuno-Oncology
- Leadership
- Nurse Navigation
- Nurse Well-Being
- Nutrition
- ONS Information Regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Pain Management
- Spanish Resource
- Cancer of the Genitourinary Tract
- Survivorship

Oncologic Emergencies Learning Library



The ONS Clinical Specialists have compiled a comprehensive list of resources about oncologic emergencies for your reference.

Clinical Practice Resources +

Case Studies +

Podcasts +

Articles +

Courses +

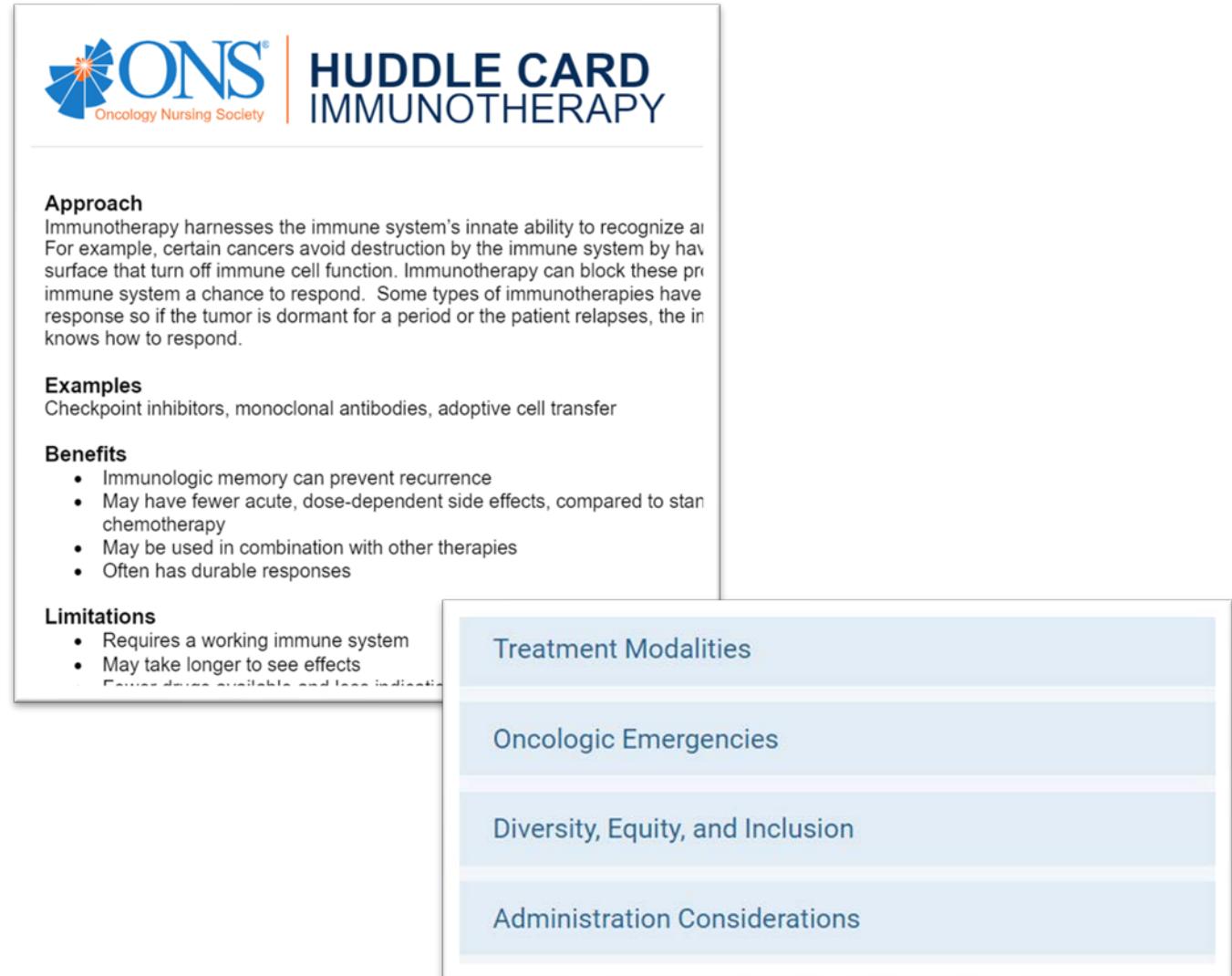
Books +

Videos +



Huddle Cards

- One page, "bite-size" education on relevant topics to oncology nurses
- Perfect for quickly reviewing during shift huddles or staff meetings
- New topics being added regularly



The image shows a sample 'Huddle Card' from the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) for the topic of Immunotherapy. The card has a white header section with the ONS logo and the title 'HUDDLE CARD IMMUNOTHERAPY'. The main content area is divided into sections: 'Approach', 'Examples', 'Benefits', and 'Limitations'. Below these is a large, light blue box containing four additional sections: 'Treatment Modalities', 'Oncologic Emergencies', 'Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion', and 'Administration Considerations'. The 'Approach' section includes a detailed paragraph about how immunotherapy works. The 'Examples' section lists checkpoint inhibitors, monoclonal antibodies, and adoptive cell transfer. The 'Benefits' section lists four advantages: immunologic memory, fewer acute side effects, combination use, and durability. The 'Limitations' section lists two: a required working immune system and longer time to effects. The 'Treatment Modalities' section is partially visible at the bottom of the main content area.

ONS
Oncology Nursing Society

HUDDLE CARD IMMUNOTHERAPY

Approach
Immunotherapy harnesses the immune system's innate ability to recognize and attack cancer cells. For example, certain cancers avoid destruction by the immune system by having surface markers that turn off immune cell function. Immunotherapy can block these proteins, giving the immune system a chance to respond. Some types of immunotherapies have a long-term response so if the tumor is dormant for a period or the patient relapses, the immune system knows how to respond.

Examples
Checkpoint inhibitors, monoclonal antibodies, adoptive cell transfer

Benefits

- Immunologic memory can prevent recurrence
- May have fewer acute, dose-dependent side effects, compared to standard chemotherapy
- May be used in combination with other therapies
- Often has durable responses

Limitations

- Requires a working immune system
- May take longer to see effects

Treatment Modalities

Oncologic Emergencies

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Administration Considerations

Genomics Resources

ons.org/learning-libraries/precision-oncology



Biomarker Testing

Biomarker testing can identify germline and/or somatic variants. It is the use of laboratory tests to measure genes, proteins, and other substances (biomarkers) found in tissue, blood, or other body fluids.

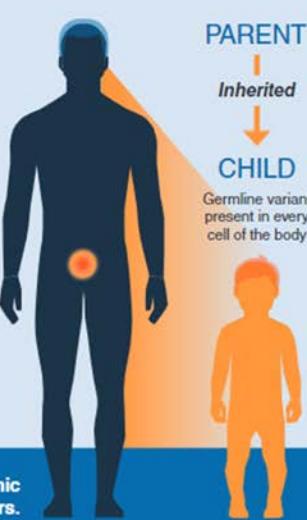
SOMATIC VARIANT

A somatic cell is any cell of the body except sperm and egg cells. Somatic variants can affect the individual but are not passed on to offspring. For example, a somatic driver variant in lung cancer.



GERMLINE VARIANT

A germline variant (alteration) occurs in a sperm cell or an egg cell. Germline variants can be passed on to offspring.



Somatic driver variants are the most common cause of cancer.

Germline pathogenic variants or likely pathogenic variants account for about 5%-10% of all cancers.

Genomics and Precision Oncology Learning Library



The ONS Genomics Advisory Board members have compiled a comprehensive list of learning resources for your quick reference!

Patient Education- New!



Clinical Practice Resources- New!



Learning Activities



Genomic "Glad You Asked" Video Series



ONS Articles



ONS Genomics Taxonomy



Books



Podcasts



Genomics External Resources



Learn More About the ONS Genomics Advisory Board



Biomarker Database

Biomarkers.ons.org

Curated for oncology nurses by oncology nurses to bring precision oncology and the most recent biomarker advances to the point of care.

The screenshot displays the Biomarker Database homepage and a detailed view of the ALK biomarker for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC).
Homepage: The top navigation bar includes the ONS logo, Biomarker Database, Biomarkers (selected), Cancer Types, and About. A welcome message reads: "Welcome! Let's learn more about biomarkers. Curated for oncology nurses by oncology nurses to bring precision oncology and the most recent biomarker advances to the point of care. Bookmark this page as new cancer types and biomarkers will be added frequently." A "Learn More" button is present.
Search and Results: The search bar allows users to search by biomarker, cancer type, or targeted therapy. Refinement options include Biomarkers and Cancer Types. The results page shows 1-10 of 103 results for the biomarker **AFP** (Alpha-fetoprotein).
ALK Biomarker Detail View: The main content area shows the ALK biomarker for NSCLC. It includes:

- Implications for Patient Care:** The ALK biomarker is **predictive**. The presence of an ALK gene rearrangement strongly predicts potential response to ALK TKIs [2].
- Targeted Therapies:** Alectinib, brigatinib, lorlatinib, and all preferred first-line treatments for ALK and NSCLC are based on superiority over crizotinib in clinical trials. NCCN-recommended first-line therapies:
 - Alectinib (Alecensa®)** ALK Inhibitor
 - Indicated for the treatment of patients with ALK-positive metastatic NSCLC as detected by an FDA-approved test [3]
 - Patient Education**

Oral Anticancer Medication Toolkit



- Pre-treatment assessment
- Patient education
- Monitoring and Follow-Up
- Treatment Calendar
- Wallet Cards

Safe Handling

- Learning Library
- Safe Handling Q&As from ONS & HOPA
- Safe Handling Basics Course (free for members!)
- Position statement

Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs Learning Library



The ONS Clinical Specialists developed a comprehensive series of resources about the safe handling of hazardous drugs for healthcare workers.

ONS
Oncology Nursing Society

HOPA
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

SAFE HANDLING Q&A GOWNS FOR HAZARDOUS DRUG ADMINISTRATION

BY MARTHA POLOVICH, DND, RN, C. SETH EISENBERG, RN, DCNP, PMTCNP

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO WEAR A GOWN?

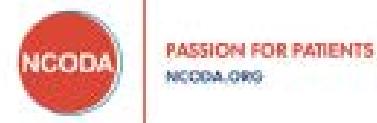
The reasons for gown use are varied. The most common reason is to prevent the healthcare worker from becoming contaminated with the drug. This can occur through skin contact, inhalation, or ingestion. Other reasons include protection of the healthcare worker from the patient's bodily fluids, and protection of the patient from the healthcare worker's own bodily fluids.

Ensuring Healthcare Worker Safety When Handling Hazardous Drugs

Joint Position Statement from the Oncology Nursing Society and the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

Hazardous drugs (HDs) are chemicals that demonstrate one or more of the following characteristics: carcinogenicity, genotoxicity, teratogenicity, reproductive toxicity, or organ toxicity. In addition, newer drugs with a structural or toxicity profile that mimics an agent known to be hazardous by one of the aforementioned criteria should also be treated as HDs (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [NIOSH] 2010). To learn more about the definition of a hazardous drug, visit the NIOSH website (www.cdc.gov/niosh/etoc/hazardous-drugs.html).

Oral Chemo/IV Chemo Education Sheets



<https://www.oralchemoedsheets.com>



<https://www.ivcanceredsheets.com>

Drug Reference Sheets

<https://voice.ons.org/topic/drug-reference-sheet>



NEWS, VIEWS, AND ADVOCACY FROM THE ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY

ONS VOICE

News & Views Advocacy Stories **Search**

Topic
Drug Reference Sheet



U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

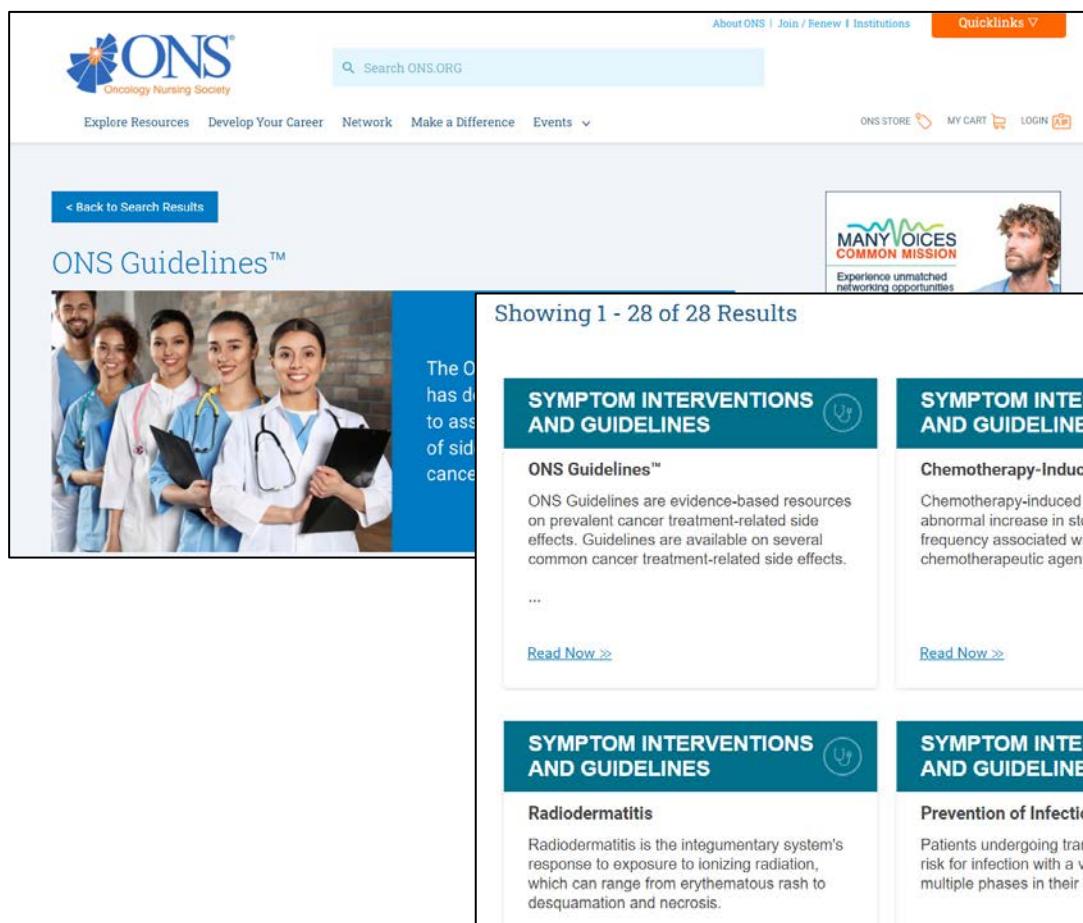
Oncology Drug Reference Sheet: Pemigatinib

When the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted pemigatinib (Pemazyre®) a new indication in August 2022, it became the first targeted therapy approved for treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory myeloid or lymphoid neoplasms (MNs) with *fibroblast*

Trending Topics

RESEARCH **TREATMENTS**
SAFETY **COVID-19**
DRUG REFERENCE SHEET

Symptom Intervention & Guidelines



The screenshot shows the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) website. The top navigation bar includes links for 'About ONS', 'Join / Renew', 'Institutions', 'Quicklinks', 'ONS STORE', 'MY CART', 'LOGIN', and 'Explore Resources', 'Develop Your Career', 'Network', 'Make a Difference', 'Events'. A search bar says 'Search ONS.ORG'. A sidebar on the left features a photo of four healthcare professionals and the text: 'The O has d to ass of sid cancer'. The main content area displays a grid of 12 cards, each representing a symptom intervention and guideline. The cards are arranged in three rows of four. Each card has a teal header with the text 'SYMPTOM INTERVENTIONS AND GUIDELINES' and a circular icon with a stylized 'U' and a checkmark. The cards are: 1. 'ONS Guidelines™' (Read Now), 2. 'Chemotherapy-Induced Diarrhea' (Read Now), 3. 'Skin Toxicities' (Read Now), 4. 'Radiodermatitis' (Read Now), 5. 'Prevention of Infection: Transplant' (Read Now), and 6. 'Prevention of Infection: General' (Read Now). A sidebar on the right says 'Experience unmatched networking opportunities' with a 'MANY VOICES COMMON MISSION' logo.

ADVANCE PRINT EXCLUSIVE

ONS Guidelines™ to Support Patient Adherence to Oral Anticancer Medications

Items Per Page: 50 Sort By: Most Recent

er, PharmD, BCOP, Benyam Muluneh, PharmD, BCOP, CPP, OCN®, Mary K. Anderson, BSN, RN, OCN®, Ryan K. DasGupta, PharmD, BCOP, Jennifer Elliott, BC, Michelle Karlin, DNP, AOCNP®, FNP-BC, PS, BCOP, Victoria K. Marshall, PhD, RN, BCPS, BCOP, Maegan Molnar, LCSW, FAAN, Janelle Tipton, DNP, APRN-CNS, AOCN®, N®, Kristine B. LeFebvre, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, AOCN®, aseem, MPH, and Rebecca L. Morgan, PhD, MPH

Tried and True Resources

- Chemotherapy/Immunotherapy Guidelines (New print edition May 2023)
- Access Device Standards of Practice (New edition August 2023)
- Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs (New edition end of 2023)
- Position statements



What questions do
YOU have?



Resources

- [Access Device Standards of Practice for Oncology Nursing](#)
- [Chemotherapy & Immunotherapy Guidelines and Recommendations for Practice](#)
- [Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs](#)
- [Oncology Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice](#)
- [ASCO/ONS Chemotherapy Administration Safety Standards](#)
- [ONS Communities](#)
- [Position Statement on the Education of Nurses who Administer Chemo, Targeted and Immunotherapy](#)



Resources (cont'd)

- [Licensing opportunities](#)
- [Huddle Card Library](#)
- [Oral Chemo Education Sheets](#)
- [IVE Drug Education Sheets](#)
- [Learning Libraries](#)
- [Oral Adherence Toolkit](#)
- [Nurse Wellbeing Learning Library](#)

