Improving Cure Rates in Elderly Patients with Haematological Cancers: Development of a Haemato-Oncology / Geriatric Liaison Service

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Background
• Incidence of most blood cancers increases with age
• MacMillan Cancer Services Coming of Age Report identified need to improve cancer care for older patients

The Service
• We developed a Haemato-oncology / Geriatric liaison service in 2016:
  - novel (first of its kind in UK)
  - pro-active
  - team based
• All patients > 65 years assessed at diagnosis
• Critical issues relevant to their treatment are identified and appropriate management initiated
• Re-assessed regularly throughout treatment and during rehabilitation

Objectives of the Service
• To increase the likelihood of delivering optimal and curative therapy (management of co-morbidities, reducing polypharmacy, improving mobility)
• To address nutritional and psychological issues
• To reducing hospital admissions
• To improve cure rates
• To improve speed of recovery and quality of life after treatment

Conclusions
• Established a unique service for elderly patients with blood cancers
• Improved the care including holistic needs of elderly patients with blood cancers and their carers
• Increases the likelihood of achieving cure in elderly patients with DLBCL

Improving the Cure Rates of Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL)
• Commonest subtype of lymphoma
• > 50% are >70 years at diagnosis
• Aggressive, but CURABLE cancer

Challenges of DLBCL Management in the Elderly
• More likely to have pre-existing co-morbidities
• More likely to be on multiple medications
• More likely to have reduced organ reserve
• Greater risk of treatment related toxicities
• More likely to develop functional decline during treatment