Progress Made in Myeloma Research Through Multiple Efforts

More than 60,000 people in the United States are survivors of multiple myeloma (National Cancer Institute [NCI], 2011). According to the NCI (2011), multiple myeloma is highly treatable but rarely curable. However, we have made tremendous progress in the treatment and control of this disease. The median survival of someone with multiple myeloma was about seven months before chemotherapy, which stretched to 24–30 months with chemotherapy. The median survival now is 45–60 months with further improvements due to the addition of newer therapies such as bortezomib, thalidomide, and lenalidomide, as well as pulse corticosteroids and stem cell transplantation. Although no one wants their expected lifespan to be measured in months, the change from 7 to 60 months is a significant improvement.

The author takes full responsibility for the content of this article. No financial relationships relevant to the content of this article have been disclosed by the editorial staff.

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/11.CJON.S1.4

Although no one wants their expected lifespan to be measured in months, the change from 7 to 60 months is a significant improvement.