Impact of Hyperglycemia and Age on Outcomes in Patients With Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Susan Storey, PhD, RN, AOCNS®, and Diane Von Ah, PhD, RN, FAAN

Acutely, myeloid leukemia (AML), a hematologic cancer, is the most common type of acute leukemia in adults, particularly among older adults (O’Donnell et al., 2012). The incidence of AML increases with age (Rodak, Fritsma, & Keohane, 2011), with the median age being 67 years at diagnosis (O’Donnell et al., 2012). The diagnosis and treatment of AML are associated with acuity and with symptom and side effect profile (O’Donnell et al., 2012). One side effect, hyperglycemia, has been shown to be detrimental in critical care and general medical-surgical patients (Richardson & Pollack, 2005), but is not well understood in patients with cancer.

Hyperglycemia, a disorder of glucose metabolism, is clinically defined as blood glucose of 126 mg/dl or greater (American Diabetes Association [ADA], 2015). Hyperglycemia is common in critical care and hospitalized patients, with about 32%...