



Community Oncology – Facts & Fallacies

Hematology, Oncology and Radiation Oncology practice in the community setting is extremely vibrant, diverse and inspiring. In addition to the exciting and ever changing clinical practice, a physician can develop other areas of interest such as clinical research, write up of scientific or position papers, informatics, patient advocacy, and community involvement. Oncologists in the community setting do have control of their work load, schedules and can deliver the most up-to-date quality care.

The practice of hematology/oncology in the community setting has not been accurately represented, likely because teaching institutions are not privy to the nuances of working in the private practice setting. We want to set the record straight.

FALLACY

FACT

Clinical Trials

You will never participate in clinical trials are very much involved in clinical trials.

Private practice community oncologists At Florida Cancer Specialists, for example, there are currently 25 active clinical trials in place

Publishing & Presenting

You will never have the opportunity to submit scientific or position papers or to present at scientific meetings

Community oncologists submit over 50% of the papers published at national and local oncology meetings

On-call

You will be on-call every weekend and every holiday

The majority of private practices in this country provide fair and equitable call schedules for their physicians

State-of-the-Art-Care

The most current treatments are only available at large hospitals or academic medical hospitals

Almost 55% of all cancer patients are treated in the community oncology setting where they receive high quality state-of-the-art cancer care

Cost of Care

Community practices are smaller so the

A Leavitt Partners March 2017 review

cost of care must be higher

of ten studies conducted between 2011 and 2016, found that, on average, the cost of care was 38% higher in the hospital outpatient department as compared to physician office care
(Leavitt Partners, Cancer Treatment Costs Are Consistently Lower in the Community Setting versus the Hospital Outpatient Department: A systematic Review of the Evidence; March 2017; Lia Winfeld, PhD, David Muhlestein, PhD, JD.)

Patient Interaction

Hospital-based care allows the physician to spend more time with each patient

Community oncology practices set their own pace; hospitals often give physicians a patient and/or RVU quota which, if not met, effects their personal salary

Copyright © 2017