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Cardio-oncology- What it is and why we need it?

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Cardio-Oncology is an emerging specialty. It deals with the cardiac care of cancer patients in the most holistic sense. Screening, monitoring and intervention are the 3 key therapeutic initiatives in cancer patients exposed to potentially cardiotoxic chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy. Cardiotoxicity is a significant burden in those treated with anthracyclines and Trastuzumab and can complicate therapy with newer agents such as proteasome inhibitors. In addition, chemotherapy can result in arrhythmias, myocarditis, arterial and venous thromboembolism and hypertension while radiotherapy can lead to valve disease, pericarditis and diastolic and systolic dysfunction.

Biography

Arjun Ghosh, MBBS, MRCP (UK), MRCP (Card), MSc, PhD, FHEA, is working as a Consultant Cardiologist at Barts Heart Centre (BHC), St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London and at University College London Hospital (UCLH) is one of the first Cardiologists in the UK appointed specifically in Cardio-Oncology. He helped establish Cardio-Oncology services at both these hospitals. The services deal with screening for cardiotoxicity, monitoring patients on potentially cardiotoxic therapy and managing cardiac complications of cancer therapy. Patients are seen in clinics at BHC twice a week and once a week at UCLH. These clinics are one-stop with investigations (echocardiography, cardiac MRI etc.) on the day enabling rapid assessment and formation of a management plan on the day itself. Alongside the clinical service, Cardio-Oncology research is undertaken at both sites and there is a thriving educational component to the service with fellows from the UK and across the world. He has also established one of the first Cardio-Oncology MDTs in the world at BHC. He will explain the role of Cardio-Oncology in the management of cancer patients and expand on the Cardio-Oncology service models at BHC and UCLH.

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