



## PAKISTAN ASSOCIATION OF UROLOGICAL SURGEONS KARACHI CHAPTER

### Citywide Uro-Oncology Tumor Board

Uro Oncology is complex and encompasses a wide range of specialties. These include radiation and medical oncologist, pathologist, radiologist, nurses besides urologist to make management decisions. Individual visits to these specialists may take months to materialize. In addition, peer review of individuals' decision is also not possible.

Multidisciplinary tumor board meetings provide a forum for use of community wisdom, minimizing bias, and saving time. It also provides a forum for training of juniors and inculcating modern, evidence based practice. The intent to promote decreased variation in practice patterns, assure appropriate use of health care resources, offer educational opportunities for medical professionals, and improve outcomes of cancer care for select patient populations

Karachi citywide tumor board is an effort to introduce this culture in the wider spectrum. AKU has been holding tumor board meetings for a long time and for the past 5 years specialty tumor boards have also developed. Uro oncology tumor board at AKU is a regular weekly meeting at 10 am on Tuesday morning. Previous attempts at extending this to the rest of the city were not successful due to time and day and the inconvenience of traveling. On one hand the Covid crisis has brought misery and death but on the other hand few blessings as well. One of the blessings in the post Covid era is our ability to communicate virtually.

From August 11, 2020 we are starting tumor board for the city. In the first meeting three cases will be presented, one each of bladder, prostate and testicular cancers. From August onwards, the tumor board will be open to the uro-oncology community of the city. Cases can be presented for discussion on management further work up etc. Some basic principles that we must remember are

1. As physicians we must remember our responsibility of maintaining the confidentiality of the information
2. In order to refer case for the meeting essential imaging and pathology needs to be shared 5 days in advance.
  - a. The clinical information and patients progress will be presented by the primary consultant (preferably resident)
  - b. The radiology needs to be shared with dedicated Uro radiology team at AKU either as hard copies but preferably as CDs. Serial imaging are essential for a meaningful discussion on the case. SO all relevant imaging studies are essential.
  - c. The dedicated Uro pathologist is available in the team and to take advantage of his presence the pathology slides be sent in advance (at least 5 days before the meeting) as well
  - d. The material can be sent to via rider, Bykea etc to Ms. Ashraf Fidai (021 34864761).
  - e. Once all the material is received cases will be placed on the list.

We are sure that this will augur a new era of EBM in the city in the management of uro oncology. Opinions expressed in the tumor board are based on current literature and to the best understanding of the expert panel. It is the responsibility of the primary care physician to take the best decision based on the recommendations of the tumor board. The board relies on the recommendations of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and EAU guidelines.