Advanced Immuno-Oncology (I-O) ChangeMakers

Action Learning Projects to Improve Cancer Care

Project Title	Optimizing PD-L1 testing practices in our region
Problem/Challenge	There is a need to provide PD-L1 testing in a timely, coordinated fashion so that treatment decisions are not delayed.
Aim/Goal	Engage community pathology groups in our region through education and structured discussions around optimal PD-L1 testing practices. Establish ongoing dialogue around ways to improve PD-L1 testing.
Key Interventions	We began by reviewing how our PD-L1 testing processes had evolved in our own lab. We brought PD-L1 testing in-house and focused our efforts on PD-L1 testing for patients diagnosed with NSCLC. We wanted to share our experience with other pathology groups in our region (Northern California Sutter Health), so scheduled a series of meetings to discuss how other pathology groups were coordinating PD-L1 testing. We outlined how PD-L1 testing can be incorporated into reflex testing protocols for NSCLC and how to handle small tissue samples so that enough remains for biomarker testing. We discussed perspectives around the pros/cons of in-house PD-L1 testing, the issues around different interpretation methods (eg, tumor proportion score vs. combined positive score), and the latest guideline recommendations based on expanding FDA approvals and indications for checkpoint inhibitors.
Summary of Results	We held several meetings with other pathology groups in our region in 2021 and discussed some of the practical challenges around PD-L1 testing. We also shared our processes around reflex PD-L1 testing in NSCLC and on how to handle and process needle biopsy samples to improve our ability to perform biomarker testing with these small samples.
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