Is your FA patient facing a cancer diagnosis?

The problem:

Cancer treatments in people with Fanconi anemia

Due to the DNA repair defects in FA, patients with the disease have an extremely high risk of developing cancer. The most common solid tumors diagnosed in the FA population are squamous cell cancers of the head and neck and anogenital regions, although tumors can occur in other areas as well. The age of onset is often younger in FA patients compared to the general population and the risk is increased in patients who have undergone hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Treating solid tumors in individuals with FA is difficult as many therapies used for the general public are contraindicated due to issues related to toxicity.

A solution:

The FARF Virtual Tumor Board, a team of experts who offer guidance on treating FA-related cancer

The Fanconi Anemia Research Fund (FARF) Virtual Tumor Board (VTB) is a panel of physicians experienced with treating patients with Fanconi anemia (FA). The physicians volunteer their time to discuss difficult FA solid tumor cases and offer treatment guidance. The specialists on the panel have expertise in otolaryngology, hematology oncology, radiation oncology, and medical oncology.

The VTB was developed to provide support to individuals with FA and their treating physicians. Members of the FARF VTB will meet virtually with the patient’s local treating physician(s) to review a patient’s case and provide input for treatment, from an FA-centric viewpoint. This process allows continued learning on how to best treat cancers associated with FA, which in turn may help others with similar diagnoses.

How to participate

Please send a brief synopsis of the patient’s cancer-related medical history, along with the timeframe in which you would like the VTB to occur, to Andrea Ronan: andrea@fanconi.org or 541-687-4658 ext 402. We will provide you with more details on the process and coordinate the meeting with the VTB members.