



“Providing an opportunity for multiple myeloma patients and their loved ones to come together to exchange information for mutual support, comfort, and friendship”

Meeting: **Meetings will resume when we are allowed to gather at the address below.**

451 Junction Road
Madison, WI
UW West Clinic Room 1287

Enter the clinic... turn left and walk down a short hall...turn left again and conference room 1287 is the last one on the left.

Group Information:

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Madison Multiple Myeloma Support Group website
madisonmultiplemyeloma.org

Mailing Address: Wisconsin Multiple Myeloma Support Group
3309 Chicago Avenue Madison, WI 53714-1815

Information Sources :

International Myeloma Foundation (IMF)
Phone: 800 - 452 - 2873
Email: TheIMF@myeloma.org
Website: www.myeloma.org

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation(MMRF)
Phone: 203 - 972 - 1250
Email: info@themmrf.org
Website: www.multiplemyeloma.org

Myeloma Crowd /Health Tree Foundation
P.O. Box 1286
Draper, UT 84020
www.myelomacrowd.org

New resource addition above.

August 2021 Myeloma Newsletter

Upcoming speakers-

Dr. Natalie Callander from the UW Carbone Cancer Center will be our featured speaker at our October meeting. More information to follow.

Is a COVID-19 Booster Vaccination the Answer for Myeloma Patients?

From the IMF, Dr Durie's blog July 15, 2021

****Update:** On Friday, July 16, the FDA granted a priority review for Pfizer's application for full approval of its COVID-19 vaccine, which is expected within two months. This will give doctors the option of administering a vaccine booster to immunocompromised individuals.

Current status - immunocompromised individuals, especially those taking treatments which further compromise the immune system, have a very poor response to the two-dose Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations. Low levels of antibodies (even zero) develop, which is obviously very disappointing and leaves individuals vulnerable.

This means that myeloma patients receiving immune therapies, such as anti-CD 38 antibodies or BCMA-targeted therapies, must behave as if unvaccinated and take precautions using masks, social distancing and the like to stay safe.

The [Washington Post reported](#) that CDC advisers will meet July 22 to consider additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised patients. This is good news and, hopefully, we will see some positive steps moving forward.

Experience with boosters - There is no data yet to indicate the benefit of a booster for myeloma patients. A new study is just starting in Greece to gather information and assess the value. However, a recent French study showed that nearly half of test subjects in parallel situations responded well to a booster shot. Of 59 patients who lacked antibody response after two shots, 44% showed positive results after a 3rd shot. In the U.S., benefit has also been shown for a small number of patients who have managed to get a 3rd shot.

France and Israel have already approved boosters for immunocompromised people and the U.K. has announced intentions to do the same.

Options in the U.S. - The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are available through the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). This means that giving a third shot would violate the current CDC Provider Agreement. In addition, there are currently many hurdles to starting clinical trials of a third shot in this setting, despite deep concerns about new COVID-19 surges in states across the country due to the Delta variant.

Two solutions discussed by Jennifer and Robert Mnookin in their L.A. Times Op-Ed are:

Full approval of the vaccines (Pfizer/Moderna), which apparently can be expected fairly soon. This would allow doctors to use their “clinical judgment” to provide a third booster shot.

FDA approval for a third shot of the Pfizer vaccine under its current EUA agreement.

Bottom line - With the Delta variant threatening to put many myeloma patients across the country at risk of critical infection, the U.S. can follow the lead from France, Israel and the U.K. to authorize doctors to use their best judgment to provide a third booster shot. The safety of the current two-shot vaccines is not in question and the lifesaving potential is enormous.

Our virtual meetings are on the Zoom platform.

Our meeting for August 17th will be from 3:30pm to 4:30pm

IMF SG Meeting Room 3 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Madison, WI SG 3rd Tue Monthly

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://myeloma-org.zoom.us/j/84457667535?pwd=V0lJTdNQ2FOZ1hMUkFaRmJBc0Qzdz09>

Meeting ID: 844 5766 7535

Passcode: 678275

One tap mobile

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 844 5766 7535

Passcode: 678275

Find your local number: <https://myeloma-org.zoom.us/u/kyMbCRs05>

IMF Info Line – If you or someone you care for has Myeloma, you have questions. Probably, lots of them. You can search the Internet all you want, but other than asking your doctor, there is no better way to get your questions answered than to call the IMF Info Line. Missy, Judy and Paul know their stuff and they want to share what they know with you. Just ask anyone who has called the IMF Info Line. Patients or caregivers are welcome to contact the Info Line staffed by trained specialists at 800-452-CURE (800-452-2873). The Info Line is staffed between 9am and 4pm Pacific Time, 11am to 6pm Central time or infoline@myeloma.org.

The Trillium Fund was established by our founding support group members to facilitate Multiple Myeloma research here in Madison at the Wisconsin Institute of Medical Research. If you or your family wish to donate or send a memorial to this program, checks can be made payable to the “UW Foundation – Trillium Fund” and sent to UW Carbone Cancer Center, University of Wisconsin Foundation, 1848 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726. Donations may also be made online at www.supportuw.org/give (Trillium Fund in Multiple Myeloma Research – 112903576). For any questions, please call Daniel Rosen at (608) 264-5437 or email curecancer@supportuw.org.