



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

Group Information:

Jayne Schwartz 608- 244-2120
schwartzdon@sbcglobal.net

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

HealthTree Foundation
P.O. Box 1286
Draper, UT 84020
www.healthtree.org.

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
(includes Multiple Myeloma)
Contact information 1-800-955-4572
Email www.LLS.org/ContactUs
Live chat www.LLS.org/patient-support

November 2024 Myeloma Newsletter

Upcoming Meeting Speakers

Dr Natalie Callander, UW Carbone Center tentatively will be our December 17, 2024 meeting speaker. More info to follow.

Shannon Ramirez, BSN, RN, OCN-Oncology Clinical Educator- S. Wisconsin, Illinois, NW Indiana, Quad Cities Hematology from **J&J Innovative Medicine** will be our featured speaker January 21, 2025. She will be presenting information on Talvey.

Nancy Bruno, IMF Director of Support Groups is our featured speaker for the November 19, 2024 meeting. She will be presenting information about “Myelo”. The International Myeloma Foundation Launches Myelo: The First AI-Powered Responsive Chatbot to Provide Compassionate Support for Patients, Care Partners and Health Care Professionals. She will start her presentation after our quick check-in at 3:45pm.

Our condolences to the Green family

Our group member and caregiver, Gloria Green passed away October 22, 2024. Mike and Gloria joined our group June 2015. Gloria was an active group member from the start. Joining Mike at meetings and just this year, planning our first ever picnic. She was always willing to share her experiences and provide comfort to all. She was a talented artist with pottery. I am blessed to have been gifted one of her angels. She was loved and will be missed.

Flu and Covid Vaccines: Should You Bundle Your Shots This Season?

It's that time of year again—flu season. Many myeloma patients and caregivers may be asking themselves, "*Should I get my flu vaccine and COVID booster at the same time, or should I space them out?*" **Read more about this on the link above.**

HealthTree is coming to Madison, Wisconsin! In partnership with Dr Natalie Callander, HealthTree will be conducting a workshop. Dr Natalie Callander will soon be starting a pilot program with HealthTree. Jenny Ahlstrom, CEO of HealthTree and Dr Natalie Callander have committed to presenting at the gathering.

I hope to have as many group members as possible for this live event. More information to follow on date/time/location. * **Update- I do not have any further information about this event.**

FDA Approves Isatuximab as First-Line Treatment for Transplant-Ineligible Multiple Myeloma

HealthTree Posted: Sep 23, 2024

The U.S. **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has approved isatuximab (Sarelisa, Sanofi) in combination with bortezomib, lenalidomide and dexamethasone (VRd) for adults newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma who are **not** eligible for autologous stem cell transplant. This marks the first time an [anti-CD38 antibody](#) has been approved in combination with VRd for this specific group of patients.

This landmark approval is particularly important given that the median age at diagnosis for multiple myeloma is around 70 years old. This means some patients are not eligible for a stem cell transplant, often due to age and other health conditions, making effective first-line treatment options crucial. As the disease progresses, it can significantly impact the quality of life and overall health, and as a patient gets older, other health conditions might appear, making it more difficult to receive certain types of treatments. Therefore, the initial treatment strategy is critical in maximizing both the length and quality of life. **Achieving the best possible response with first-line therapy is essential.**

While other [VRd-based quadruple therapies](#) are being investigated in clinical trials, the isatuximab-VRd combination is the first to receive FDA approval, offering a new standard of care for this patient population.

Isatuximab's First Approval for Newly Diagnosed Patients

Isatuximab, first approved in 2020 for certain patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma, is a type of therapy known as a monoclonal antibody. It works by targeting a protein called CD38,

which is found in high levels on the surface of myeloma cells. By binding to CD38, isatuximab helps the immune system recognize and destroy these cancerous cells. This marks the first time isatuximab has been approved for its use in earlier stages of the disease, offering a new first-line treatment for transplant-ineligible patients.

You can learn more about immunotherapy and isatuximab with [HealthTree University for Multiple Myeloma](#). Create a free account to watch and save multiple videos from experts explaining how isatuximab works, how it's administered, its side effects, and how they manage them:

[Learn More about Isatuximab](#)

Sources:

- [Sarclisa approved in the US as the first anti-CD38 therapy in combination with standard-of-care treatment for adult patients with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma not eligible for transplant](#)
- [Isatuximab, Bortezomib, Lenalidomide, and Dexamethasone for Multiple Myeloma](#)

Marta Llobet Canela, author

Madison MM Support Group is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://myeloma-org.zoom.us/j/81745782301?pwd=L2u5V0zAxLtuHQtKh2WZZaO3lsvs8N.1>

Meeting ID: 817 4578 2301

Passcode: 636273

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,81745782301#,,, *636273# US

+13017158592,,81745782301#,,, *636273# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

• +1 646 931 3860 US

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

• +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

• +1 386 347 5053 US

• +1 507 473 4847 US

• +1 564 217 2000 US

• +1 669 444 9171 US

• +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

• +1 689 278 1000 US

- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US

Meeting ID: 817 4578 2301

Passcode: 636273

Find your local number: <https://myeloma-org.zoom.us/j/81745782301>

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 specialist 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 Janie Winston 608-512-6068 or email at Janie.Winston@supportuw.org