
EDITORIAL

A New Update: Urology Best Practices for the Primary Care Physician (PCP)

In early 2008, the publishers and editors of the *Canadian Journal of Urology* met in Montreal to review the documents associated with the Journal supplement that we were preparing. We noted that a significant number of patients with urology-related problems initially present to the primary care physician (PCP). Unfortunately, the amount of formal urology education that these physicians receive in medical schools is minimal.

Over the last number of years there has been a major paradigm shift in the management of a number of urologic conditions. Many urologic conditions are initially treated medically rather than surgically.

We have also seen that a number of urologic presentations are linked to other medical conditions that can better be identified and managed by the PCP.

There was a knowledge gap.

The *Canadian Journal of Urology* supplement “Urology Update for Primary Care Physicians” was published in 2008. It was a joint effort between expert urologists and expert PCPs to create the “go-to” reference journal for the major PCP-identified urologic conditions such as benign prostatic hyperplasia, erectile dysfunction, andropause, overactive bladder, and prostate cancer.

We were very successful, as demonstrated by the positive feedback and international wide-spread use of the supplement by PCPs.

In the short time since the supplement was published, new study findings have been presented and published, which in some cases support and in other cases refute some of our recently accepted beliefs about these urologic conditions and our treatment approaches.

In November 2009 the Society of Urologic Surgeons of Ontario (SUSO) presented an Educational Day for Family Physicians, which was co-chaired by Dr. Alan Toguri (Urology) and Dr. John Axler (PCP). The profit from the SUSO update meeting went to the Ontario Medical Association student bursary fund. After each didactic presentation, PCPs had an opportunity in small group settings to discuss, reflect and question what had been presented with one of the urologists in attendance.

Presentations from this symposium, discussion points and questions raised by this recent group of PCPs and the content of the original supplement provided the basis and background for the articles contained in this 2010 urology update for PCPs.

We hope that this supplement, with the most up-to-date clinical study data, will provide PCPs with valuable and practical insights about the current approaches to diagnosis and management of these common urologic conditions.

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