



CLL SOCIETY

## CLL Society's COVID-19 Virtual Community Meeting March 26, 2021

### Transcript of Conversation Between Drs. Alexey Danilov and Brian Koffman

Due to technical difficulties, the following was removed from the recording of CLL Society's COVID-19 Virtual Community Meeting: Contagion, Variants, and Vaccines:

**Dr. Brian Koffman:** Dr. Danilov let's talk about doctors' visits! There has been a concern raised that cancer rates are going up and that cancer is being caught later. What are you telling your patients about doctors' visits? And while we're on it, dentists, or physical therapists, or lab visits? What are you telling your patients?

**Dr. Alexey Danilov:** Well Brian, I tell my patients that at this point, we have come up with ways and means to handle all the concerns regarding this pandemic. Hospitals have become a safe place for many of our patients. Of course, it is never going to be as safe as just staying at home, and never leaving your apartment. But it might arguably be just as safe, or safer, than going to the grocery store. I see that the majority of the hospitals have done a very good job of establishing flows of patients and providing support for social distancing. And you are right-In the past several months I certainly have experienced several sad situations where care was not sought for fear of COVID, resulting in limited options when patients ultimately presented for management of their cancer or lymphoma. I would advise continuing strong communication as you have established with your physician. We do have a great opportunity to use telemedicine, which we use quite a bit. And many a time when it is appropriate, phone calls and video calls. And also, to determine or to sort of separate, whom we should bring in for an actual visit and whom we could continue to follow up with via telephone or video. I would encourage you and patients with CLL to stay in touch with your physicians. We are here to protect you. We are very aware of the situation and we are constantly mindful of the situation in our state and local counties. We gauge everything based on what's going on and the symptoms you may be experiencing.

**Dr. Brian Koffman:** Dr. Danilov, I know you are working with Dr. Siddiqi and a group of about 12 other institutions across the country. I think it's Dr. Chaitra Ujjani out of the Fred Hutchinson who set it up in Seattle. It's a trial to look at antibody response. Can you tell patients a little bit about that and how they can access it?

**Dr. Alexey Danilov:** This is a trial that looks at antibody response following COVID-19 vaccination, specifically among patients with CLL. It also looks at T-cell responses, similar to what Dr. Rosen was talking about. Basically, the study collects just a small amount of blood before vaccination to understand the baseline. One can see evidence of past infection. Then again, at a couple of time points following vaccination. So, I strongly encourage (CLL patients) to participate in the study when folks come to our clinic. We usually just incorporate it into our regular blood draws.