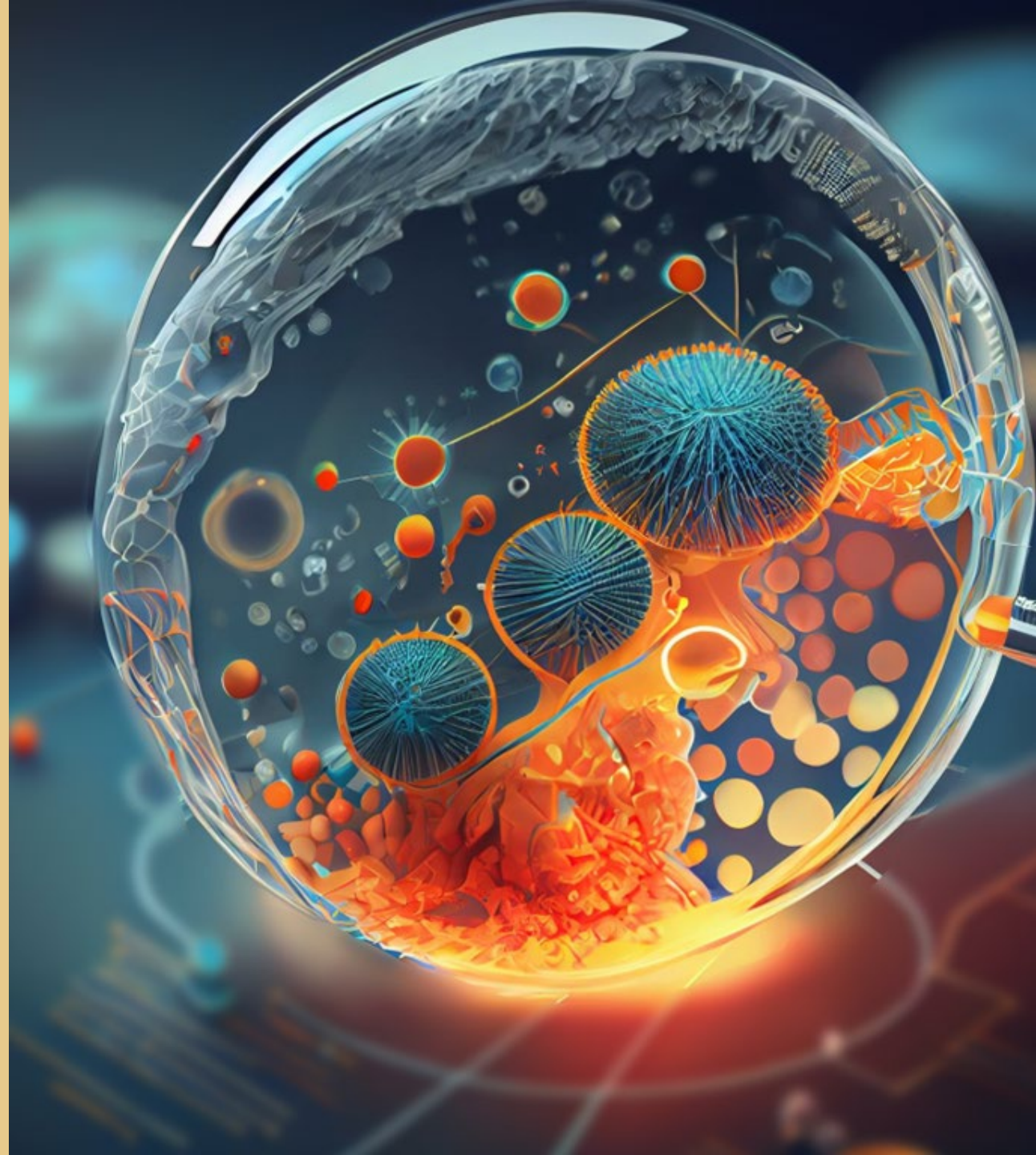


How should a tumour board operate? How to ensure patient access and patient centricity?

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A Patient-Centered Focus: Our Common Goal

The goal is to move beyond a “one-size-fits-all” approach and ensure that every patient receives personalized care that maximizes treatment effectiveness and minimizes unnecessary side effects.

Key Barriers to Patient Access in Precision Oncology Tumour Boards

- **Unequal Access to Resources:**

Many patients, particularly those in **rural or low-resource settings**, may not have access to precision oncology tumour boards or advanced genomic testing.

- **High Cost of Genomic Testing and Targeted Therapies:**

Even when tumour boards are available, the **cost of genomic testing** and the targeted treatments they recommend are often prohibitively expensive for patients without adequate insurance coverage.

- **Limited Awareness:**

Many patients and even some healthcare providers are **unaware** of the existence and potential benefits of precision oncology tumour boards, leading to **underutilization** of these resources

Ensuring Patient Access to Precision Oncology Tumour Boards

- **Expand Geographical Reach:**

Encourage the inclusion of underserved areas in virtual tumour boards. This will ensure that all patients, regardless of location, have access to multidisciplinary, precision-based care.

- **Increase Public Funding:**

Advocate for **government and public healthcare system support** to subsidize genomic testing and ensure that targeted therapies are accessible through **insurance coverage** or national healthcare programs.

- **Education and Awareness Campaigns:**

Researchers and oncologists must collaborate with patient advocates to create **awareness campaigns** that inform both patients and healthcare providers about the availability and benefits of precision oncology tumour boards.

Promoting Patient-Centricity in Tumour Board Discussions

- **Incorporate Patient Values and Preferences:**

Precision oncology tumour boards should not only focus on genomic data but also consider the **patient's preferences**, quality of life concerns, and **treatment goals** when making recommendations.

- **Improve Communication:**

Ensure that patients receive **clear, transparent communication** about the rationale behind the recommended treatment. Oncologists should break down complex genomic information into **easily understandable terms**.

- **Shared Decision-Making:**

Patients should be active participants in their treatment decisions. Encourage **shared decision-making** by providing patients with the tools, information, and support needed to weigh the risks, benefits, and alternatives of each treatment option.

A Call to Action

- **Ensure Access for All Patients:**

Commit to advocating for **equitable access** to tumour boards and precision oncology care, regardless of geographic or economic barriers.

- **Make Patient-Centricity a Priority:**

Encourage tumour boards to incorporate **patient preferences** and individual treatment goals into their decision-making processes, ensuring a truly personalized and compassionate approach.

- **Collaborate with Patient Advocates:**

Work alongside patient advocacy groups to **raise awareness**, improve access, and ensure that patients are empowered to engage fully in their care.