Patient-Reported Outcome (PRO) Completion in Older Adults with Advanced Cancer: A University of Rochester National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Program Trial

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Introduction

- National organizations advocate older adult enrollment in research and PRO inclusion, with the goal of improving quality of life for this growing, understudied population.
- Despite recommendations, concerns persist regarding PRO completion by older adults with advanced cancer

Objective: 1) Determine if older adults need help completing PROs and 2) Determine factors associated with requiring help.

Methods

Data Source: National geriatric assessment (GA) cluster randomized trial, N=31 community practices

Eligibility:

- 70+ years old
- ≥1 GA domain impaired (physical, functional, cognitive, psychological, social, nutritional)
- Advanced incurable solid tumor or lymphoma

Procedures:

PROs completed on paper (12-22 pages) at screening baseline, 4-6 weeks, 3, and 6 months

Key Measure: Survey Completion Instrument

Analysis: (Baseline data)

- Dependent variable: help received yes/ no
- Independent variables: demographics, Karnofsky Performance Status (KPS), GA domains (scored as impaired vs. not impaired)
- Stepwise logistic regression (p=.15 for entry/elimination) to assess factors associated with receiving assistance

Results

Description of Sample: N=541, mean age 77 years, 49% female, 89% white, 48% high school or less education, Mean number of GA domains impaired 4.5 (out of 8)

Where was survey completed?

- 62.3% Home (CI 58.2-66.4%)
- 28.7% Office (CI 24.9-32.5%)
- 3.5 % Home and office (CI 1.9-5.1%)

Did someone help complete survey?

- 71.7% No (CI 67.9-75.5%)
- 28.3% Yes (CI 24.5-32.1%)

Who provided help?

- Caregiver
- Research Assistant(RA)
- Caregiver & RA
- Other

How did the person help?

- Read questions to me
- Wrote down answers
- Read questions and wrote answers
- Answered questions for me
- Other

Results (continued)

Percent of patients receiving help completing PROs

Multivariate Analysis: Factors associated with receiving help completing PROs

Variable	Category	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P-value
Age ref=70-79	80-89	1.25	(0.76-2.04)	0.38
	90 or more	3.71	(1.03-13.33)	0.05
Education ref= above HS	Less than HS	3.92	(2.11-7.29)	<.01
	High School	1.80	(1.14-2.84)	0.01
Hearing	Increase in problems	1.38	(1.05-1.80)	0.02
KPS	Decrease in PS	1.02	(0.99-1.04)	0.08
GA domains				
Social	Impaired	0.55	(0.34-0.90)	0.02
Cognition	Impaired	1.90	(1.23-2.93)	0.00
Function	Impaired	2.16	(1.33-3.52)	0.00
Psychologic	Impaired	1.57	(0.99-2.51)	0.06

CI-Confidence interval; GA-Geriatric assessment; HS-High school; KPS-Karnofsky Performance Status;

Conclusion

- Greater than 70% of older adults were able to complete PRO forms independently and preferred to do so at home
- Both researchers and clinicians can plan assistance resources for the approximately 1/3 of older adults with advanced cancer and GA impairments who require help with pen and paper PRO
- Knowledge of educational level and aging-related needs can raise awareness that help with PROs may be needed