Implementation of an Electronic Patient Reported Outcome system in a Prostate Cancer Urology Clinic

Maria Spillane1, Phil Pollock*, Lindsay Hedden1,2, Eugenia Wu1, Jennifer Jones1,2, Matthew Andrews1, Tran Truong3, Yuliya Gavrylyuk, Larry Goldenberg4, Celestia Higano5,6
1Vancouver Prostate Centre, Vancouver, BC; 2School of Population and Public Health, UBC; 3Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, ON; 4University of Toronto, Toronto, ON; 5University Health Network, Toronto, ON; 6Department of Urologic Sciences, UBC; 7University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre, Seattle, WA.

Background

Patients with Prostate Cancer (PC) have 10-year survival rates approaching 100%. However, almost all treatments for PC can result in side effects that can impair quality of life after treatment. Patient Report Outcomes (PRO) can be valuable for identifying and treating physical and psychological outcomes in PC survivors and can also be a valuable tool for research.

The Vancouver Prostate Centre (VPC) implemented the collection of electronic Patient Reported Outcomes (ePROs) at the Prostate Clinic at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) using an iPad system, adopted from the University Health Network in Toronto, to participate in a Canadian cancer registry (Prostate Cancer Survivorship 360°, approved by the UBC Research Ethics Board (H16-02631)).

The objective of this analysis was to review the successes and challenges related to the implementation of this system during its first 6 months of use.

Methods

Subjects: PC patients at pre- and/or post-PC treatment appointments were approached between April 3rd 2017 and October 16th 2017. Eligible patients were identified using the clinic’s electronic medical record and after arrival and checking in, were asked to complete the ePROs. A coordinator provided assistance with their initial profile setup on the iPad and was available as required to troubleshoot any problems.

ePROs measures: EPIC-26, EQ-5D-5L, WHODAS 2.0, Distress Thermometer, EORTC QLQ-PR25® and one question from the Utilization of Sexual Medicines/Devices®.

Patients were then asked to complete ePROs at all subsequent clinic visits. Consent to be contacted about future prostate cancer research at the VPC was requested at the end of the questionnaires.

Results

Between April 3rd 2017 and October 16th 2017, 358 VPC patients were eligible to complete ePROs.

309 of the 358 pts (86%) filled out ePROs at least once, and 49 (14%) did not complete ePROs.

Figure 1: Rate of ePROs Completion

Among the 49 patients who did not complete ePROs, 24 (49%) were missed by the coordinator, 21 (43%) were not referred by clinic staff, and 4 patients declined completing ePROs.

Figure 2: Reasons for Failing to Complete ePROs

Results cont’d

398 ePROs reports were collected: 236 patients completed ePROs at one appointment, 62 patients at 2 appointments, 6 patients at 3 appointments, and 5 at 4 appointments.

Figure 3: Number of times ePROs have been completed per patient

30 of the 398 times (7.5%), which prolonged completion time and on 3 occasions resulted in patients refusing to log back onto the iPads to complete ePROs. On these occasions patients completed the PROs on paper and the coordinator manually entered the data.

On 15 out of the 398 occasions, patients only completed ePROs partially.

Table 1: Issues encountered during ePROs completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Incidence</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WiFi Connectivity</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partial Completion of the questionnaire</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
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Conclusions & Future Directions

Initial results from the first six months of use of ePROs in a Prostate Cancer Urology Clinic was demonstrated to be successful based on completion rate and low patient refusal rate.

Challenges encountered included:

- training clinic staff to refer patients to complete ePROs at appropriate times
- technical difficulties with WiFi connectivity
- the need to interact with each patient individually

The use of the data collected from this (and similar) systems are playing a growing and important role in the provision of patient-centered, high quality prostate cancer care, as well as in supporting important research.

Acknowledgements

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