BLOG | **3D Model Helps Ease Patient Distress**
When people receive news of a lung nodule after screening, they are often distressed. To help improve patient understanding, Maine Medical Center partnered with an art student from a local university to design and implement a 3D model that can be used in many healthcare settings—including primary care, emergency departments, inpatient settings, and pulmonology offices—to help give patients the necessary education to make informed healthcare decisions with their physicians. Read more at accc-cancer.org/2020-ACCC-Innovator-Awards-Blog. Then register for the ACCC 37th [Virtual] National Oncology Conference, September 14-18, to learn more about this innovation, and the other seven 2020 ACCC Innovator winners at accc-cancer.org/NOC.

WEBCAST | **Risk Stratification for Cancer Patients During COVID-19**
New patient levels for cancer programs are starting to increase after a significant drop, but their needs may be changing—and they may return at a volume that programs are not prepared for. Join Charles Saunders, MD, Chief Executive Officer, and Jennifer Webster, MS, Vice President of Analytics, IntegraConnect, as they present an overview of the current landscape of patient levels and services at cancer programs. Learn how to effectively manage oncology business during and after the pandemic while maintaining a quality patient experience. Hear how predictive analytics can show the impact COVID-19 may have on value-based care in the future. Listen at accc-cancer.org/risk-stratification-webcast.

E-NEWS | **Inaugural Issue of the ACCC Research Review**
This eNewsletter is a key component of the 2020-2021 ACCC president's theme: *Community Oncology Can Close the Gap in Cancer Research: Here's How*. The inaugural issue offers information about the ASCO Survey on COVID-19 in Oncology (ASCO) Registry and how to enroll patients; five key takeaways for eliminating the systemic inequities that minority and underserved patients face from an FDA Oncology Center of Excellence webcast; two practice-impactful precision medicine clinical trials; and more. Available online at accc-cancer.org/research-newsletter-july-2020.

PODCAST | **Clinical Trials During COVD-19**
On this episode of CANCER BUZZ, Joanne Riemer, RN, BSN, Research Oncology Nurse, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, shares how immunotherapy clinical trials have been affected by the pandemic and what cancer programs can do to safely and effectively administer clinical trials. Learn more at accc-cancer.org.
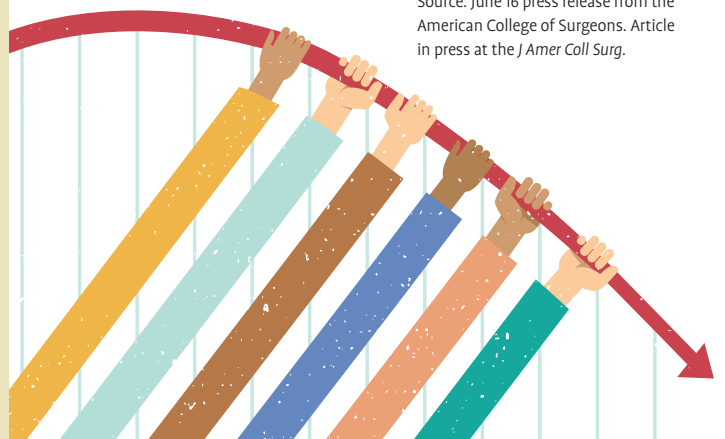
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Healthcare Survey Says...

- **98%** of respondents agree that care and cost variations exist across locations, health systems, and even among departments in the same hospital.

- **63%** don't believe they would pay an identical amount for the same treatment or condition regardless of where they are treated; physicians were more aware than hospital executives of cost and care differences.

- **73%** said healthcare would be a main issue in the upcoming election.

- Nearly **90%** said the healthcare system needs a complete overhaul.

- **40%** of consumers say that in the future, hospitals should consider the high cost of medicines, while only **13%** of executives surveyed think the same.

Source. Mending Healthcare in America 2020: Consumers + Costs. go.wolterskluwer.com/Mending-Healthcare-2020.html.

5 Key Factors That Helped Washington State "Flatten the Curve" for COVID-19

1. Early communication and coordination among stakeholders

2. Regional coordination and situational awareness of the healthcare system

3. Rapid development and access to testing

4. Proactive management of long-term care facilities and vulnerable populations

5. Effective physical distancing in the community

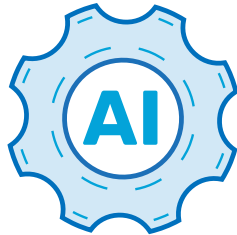Source. June 16 press release from the American College of Surgeons. Article in press at the *J Amer Coll Surg.*

facts

Using AI to Predict Risk of Thyroid Cancer on Ultrasound

After algorithm training, researchers at Thomas Jefferson University found that:

- Their algorithm performed with **97%** specificity and **90%** predictive positive value, meaning that **97%** of patients with benign nodules will have their ultrasound read as "benign" by the algorithm, and **90%** of malignant or "positive" nodules are truly positive as classified by the algorithm.

- The high specificity is indicative of a low rate of false positives—if the algorithm reads a nodule as "malignant," it is very likely to be malignant.

- The overall accuracy of the algorithm was **77%**.

Source. Daniels K, et al. Machine-learning for the genetic risk stratification of thyroid nodules by ultrasound. *JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* DOI:10.1001/jamaoto.2019.3073, 2019.

Are We Meeting Our Patients' Needs?

- A recent ASTRO survey found that **1 in 3** patients need more information on cancer treatment side effects.

- Information gaps were related to how severe patients considered their treatment-related side effects to be. Patients who reported severe side effects were more likely to say they did not know enough about them. More than a third of patients (**38%**) who reported having severe side effects also said they felt uninformed, compared to **4%** of those who reported having minimal side effects.

- Patients treated with radiation therapy wanted more information on skin irritation, GI symptoms, and fatigue.

- Patients treated with chemotherapy wanted more information on nerve damage, GI symptoms, and fatigue.

- Patients treated with surgery wanted more information on pain, nerve damage, and numbness.

Source. Shaverdian N, et al. Nationwide survey of patients' perspectives regarding their radiation and multidisciplinary treatment experiences. *J Oncol Pract.* 2019 Nov 20. doi. org/10.1200/JOP.19.00376.

Parents Get Sun Smart

- **74%** of parents say they worry about sun protection more with their children than their parents did with them.

- **90%** of parents believe it's important to teach their children healthy habits now, so they will keep them when they are adults.

Source. June 16 press release about a study by the American Academy of Dermatology. Aad.org.

Physician Assistant Compensation

- Total compensation: **$118,000**

- Base compensation: **$113,000**

- Productivity or incentive pay (**27%** of PAs receive it): **$14,000**

- Annual bonus (50% of PAs get one): **$4,000**

- Overtime (35% of PAs receive it): **$4,000**

- Hourly PA pay rate for men: **$68**

- Hourly PA pay rate for women: **$63**

Source. Becker's ASC Review. beckersasc.com/ benchmarking/15-statistics-on-physician-assistant-pay-in-2020.html.