

Collaborative Learning Workshops to Optimize Integration of Cancer Immunotherapies in the Community Setting

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The expanding armamentarium of immunotherapies available to treat patients with cancer poses a significant challenge to community practitioners who have to navigate through several practical issues to provide immunotherapy safely and effectively in their own communities. The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) implemented two collaborative learning workshops aimed at providing guidance to the entire multidisciplinary cancer care team, including oncologists, oncology nurses, advanced practice providers and other healthcare professionals, on the best practices for implementing cancer immunotherapies in the community setting with respect to care coordination, monitoring and management of immune-related adverse events (irAEs), access to care, and patient engagement in shared decision-making.

METHODS

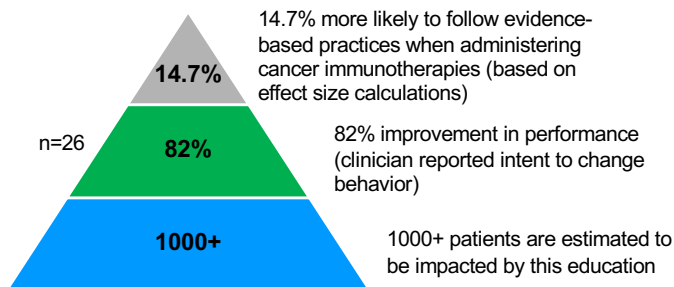
A multidisciplinary steering committee including two medical oncologists, an oncology nurse, and an oncology pharmacist, led this initiative. The workshop agenda included:

Welcome, introduction and pre-activity assessment	15 mins
Assessment of practice patterns (Collaborative learning open discussion section where the faculty posed questions to the learners to understand their specific institutional challenges)	45 mins
Understanding the key nuances of administering immunotherapies	45 mins
Care coordination within the multidisciplinary team	45 mins
Discussion panel on clinical research	30 mins
Administrative challenges in optimal integration of immunotherapy	30 mins
Develop action plan	30 mins
Survey sites at 3 months and 6 months to follow up on action plan	

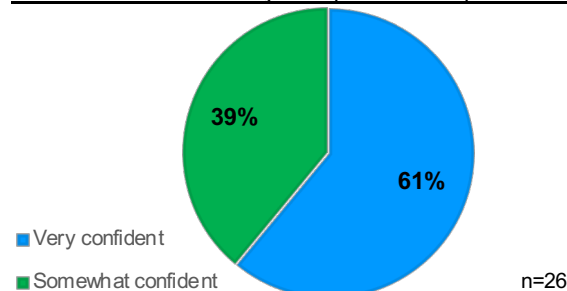
RESULTS

Collaborative Learning Discussion Points

- Choosing immunotherapy as a viable treatment option for eligible patients
- Monitoring immune-related adverse events
- Grading immune-related adverse events
- Educating patients to enable them to make informed decisions
- Training/education for staff
- Coordination of care with non-oncology specialists
- Tracking hospitalization/ER visits



Confidence in their ability to implement the planned changes

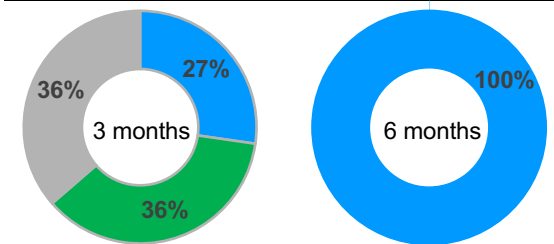


RESULTS

Planned Changes

- Utilization of effective communication and care coordination practices
- Modifying approaches for addressing treatment adherence/compliance challenges
- Identification and management of treatment related adverse events
- Implementing multidisciplinary approaches to treatment

Adherence to Action Plans Developed at the Two Workshops



- Completed implementing the change
- In the process of implementing the change
- Initiated the process of implementing the change

CONCLUSIONS

The collaborative learning workshops were successful in inducing performance changes among community practitioners with respect to use of evidence-based practices for using cancer immunotherapies.

For more information on this project and to

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