Abstract CLIN-0059: The role of a Geriatric Oncology service in building resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic

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STUDY DETAILS:

Setting
- North Lakes Cancer Centre (Metro North HHS)
- Older patients screened with G8 test (3):
- G8 ≤14 (indicating frailty) = Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGAM) offered
- Services and interventions tailored to patients needs

Population
- Patients ≥65 (+/- Carers)
- Excluded if no cancer diagnosis

Hypothesis
- Older patients with cancer may face unique stressors from COVID-19 pandemic measures
- Patients with Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGAM) will have lower rates of depression

Method:
- Patient Survey
- Longitudinal chart review of admitted patients

Statistical Plan:
- Recruitment of ≥60 patients gives 80% power to detect a 20% difference in Short Form – Geriatric Depression Scale score (alpha <0.05)

RECRUITMENT:
- 198 Pts screened
- Excluded: (n=40)
  - N=26 Not Cancer
  - N=11 >4/12ly review
  - N=3 Aged Care Facility Resident
- N=64/158 consented
- Survey Returned: N=39 Pts (61%)

SURVEY DOMAINS:
- Consent
  - Built into the survey design
- Social Well-being:
  - Emotional Support
  - Instrumental Support
  - Isolation/Companionship
- Physical Health:
  - Weight Loss
- Mood:
  - Geriatric Depression Scale (short form)
- Adaptations to Situation:
  - Personal Reflections
  - Internet Access/Telehealth

Access Survey via this QR Code

DEMOGRAPHICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65-74 years</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 years</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥85 years</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who do they live with

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living Arrangement</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alone</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Member</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PHYSICAL HEALTH

- 49% of patients reported unexplained weight loss
- This figure seems high considering the overall reports of good psychosocial health

PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH

- Patients reported high satisfaction in domains of Emotional Health and Social well-being
- 14/39 patients had GDS suggestive of depression
- Neither G8 score or Receipt of CGAM correlated with reported risk of depression

THEMES IDENTIFIED

Loneliness and isolation
- “Not seeing my Daughter and Grandchildren has been hard”
- “I miss having social contact with my friends”

Pragmatic acceptance
- “I have a strong inner belief with which I live life and that allows me to adapt to each situation I am presented with”

Treatment is my lifeline
- “Nothing (no concerns) as long as the treatment can continue”
- “How long I can stay alive”

CONCLUSION

High satisfaction in domains of emotional, social and physical health was reported despite the COVID-19 lockdown. Use of CGAM was not predictive of depression or stress related to acute stressors.