

Control Number: 72

Abstract Category: Training and Education in Cardio-Oncology

Title: Left Behind: The Cardio-Oncology Knowledge Gap among Primary Care Providers

ABSTRACT BODY

Background

The mission of cardio-oncology is to improve the cardiovascular health of patients and survivors of cancer through education, training, and research development in an interdisciplinary collaboration. In recent years, this field has had increased recognition among cardiologists and oncologists. However, this field has not yet reached the radar of general internal medicine practitioners. At our we sought to investigate this knowledge gap among primary care providers.

Methods

To understand the level of cardio-oncology knowledge among primary care providers, a 25-questions online survey designed to gauge the participants' knowledge on the cardiac side effects of chemotherapy, cardiac surveillance, radiation-induced heart disease and cardiac tumors was sent to all residents and attending physicians of primary care medicine. Furthermore, there were additional questions designed to assess their level of confidence and pattern of practice in the interconnection of cancer and heart disease. The survey was made available during a 6-month period from April to September 2019 (response rate 30.3%).

Results

The 40 respondents reported low levels of confidence in delivering cardiovascular care specific to cancer patients. Their confidence level when answering cardio-oncology questions was low with 66.6% reporting no confidence in their answers ($p = 0.0002$, $\alpha=0.05$). Average score on quiz performance was 43.5% of questions answered correctly. 82% of the respondents reported that they rarely or never participate in cardiac monitoring of their patients who are undergoing cardiotoxic chemotherapy. 30.8% rarely or never consider a history of cancer as an independent or contributing factor to cardiovascular disease in their patients. 38.5% rarely or never ask patients about the type of cancer treatment they have received.

Conclusion

A survey of primary care providers at our institution identified limited cardio-oncology knowledge base and a low confidence level in the cardiovascular management of cancer patients and survivors. It revealed that many primary care providers do not incorporate a patient's history of cancer and the type of cancer treatment they received into their management decisions

Clinical Implications

The study identified a knowledge gap of cardiovascular complications related to cancer treatment among the primary care providers.

Image 1

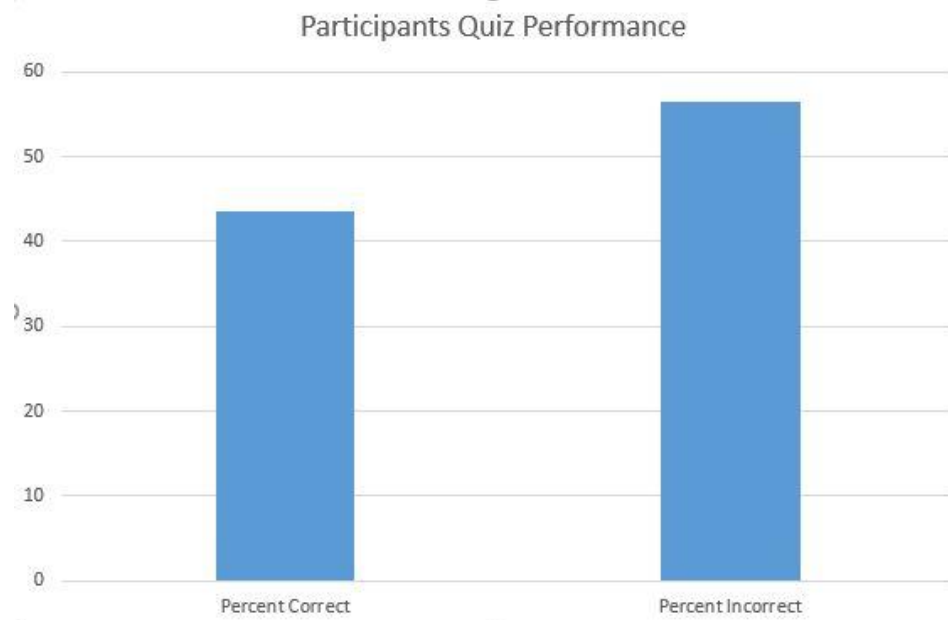


Image 2

