



The Cardio-Oncology Education Gap

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Background

- The American College of Cardiology recognized the importance of the growing intersection of patients with both cardiac and oncologic conditions and created the Cardio-Oncology Working Group.
- Their mission is to improve the cardiovascular health of patients with cancer and cancer survivors through education, training and research development in an interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Despite the efforts in recent years, there is still a gap of knowledge in the field of cardio-oncology.
- Many barriers are identified to the spread of cardio-oncology services, the most cited being the lack of guidelines and the lack of funding, but also important is the lack of formal educational activities.
- At the University of Connecticut, we sought to investigate the knowledge gap and the interest of the general cardiology fellows in their training so as to identify targets to optimize educational endeavors.

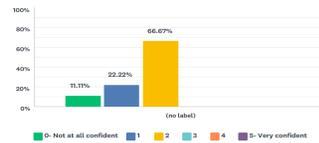
Methods

At the University of Connecticut, investigators sampled 12 of the general cardiology fellows and requested they answer an on-line survey consisting of Likert scales followed by a pre-test comprised of questions related to Cardio-Oncology.

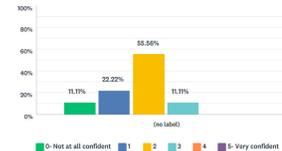
Results

Level of confidence

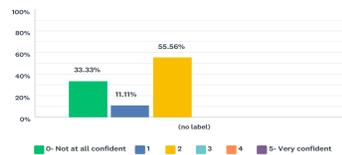
Q1 How confident are you when dealing with cardiovascular care specific to cancer patients?



Q2 How confident are you in your ability to assess a patient's risk for developing cardiotoxicity from chemotherapy?



Q3 How confident are you in making recommendations for cardiac surveillance during chemotherapy?

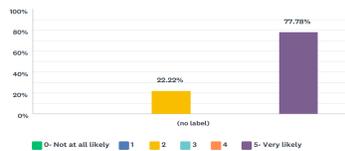


Q4 How confident are you in the management of chemotherapy-induced cardiac dysfunction or other cardiac toxicity arising from cancer treatment?

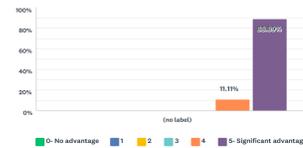


Perspective of importance of the topic

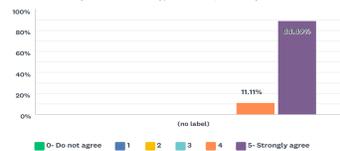
Q8 How likely are you to attend educational sessions (lectures, online modules, CME meetings) on cardio-oncology?



Q9 Do you think that specific training in cardio-oncology is a significant advantage in caring for patients who suffer cardiovascular complications of anti-cancer treatment?

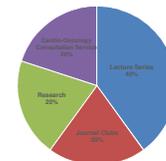


Q10 Specific training in cardio-oncology is an important component of general cardiology fellowship training.



Conclusions

- A survey was applied to the cardiology fellows and showed results not far from the national survey with participants identifying their level of confidence as low to average in managing patients with cardiovascular diseases and cancer
- In the pre-test quiz, out of 39 points, the fellows' average score was 16.25, with grades ranging from 6 to 24.
- The survey also identified significant interest in this field of knowledge, with a high-percentage of participants demonstrating great interest in more specific training.
- The University of Connecticut cardiology fellowship program has implemented regular didactics to the fellows' curriculum in cardio-oncology, mentored research endeavors, and journal clubs to promote scholarly activity and have developed a formal Cardio-Oncology consultation rotation (Figure).



References

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