

Closing Knowledge Gaps to Optimize Patient Outcomes and Advance Precision Medicine

Giusti, Kathy, MBA^{*}; Young, Anne, Quinn, MPH^{*}; Lehrhaupt, Kerri, BSc[†]

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Review Articles

Abstract Author Information

Realizing the promise of precision medicine requires patient engagement at the key decision points throughout the cancer journey. Previous research has shown that patients who make the “right” decisions, such as being treated at a high-volume academic medical center, for example, have better outcomes. An online survey was conducted to understand awareness of and barriers to these decision points among patients with multiple myeloma and pancreatic, lung, prostate, and metastatic breast cancers. Survey respondents were identified by 5 participating foundations (multiple myeloma: n = 86, pancreatic: n = 108, lung: n = 56, prostate: n = 50, metastatic breast: n = 86) and recruited by an e-mail or social media invitation. Descriptive analyses were calculated, and the proportion of patients from each of the 5 groups was compared for each response category for each survey item. Consistent gaps in knowledge and actions were identified across all cancers evaluated in terms of finding the right doctors/team at the right center; getting the right diagnostic testing done before beginning treatment; engaging in the right course of treatment, including clinical trials; and in sharing data. Improving awareness of and changing behavior around these 4 decision points will allow patients to receive better care and contribute to the advancement of precision medicine.

From the ^{*}Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, Norwalk, CT; and

[†]Kantar Health, New York, NY.

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