cancer care ontario | action cancer ontario

Communities of Practice

leveraging innovation at the practitioner level

January 2005, Volume 2. Number 1

Surgical Oncology CoP News Bulletin

CoP Update

Welcome to our second news bulletin!

Last month, we completed a review of the initiatives relevant to the CCO quality improvement programs in two disease site groups: colorectal and ovarian cancer. We conducted interviews with surgical opinion leaders and a survey of contacts, expertise and activities of community members. As we began to analyze the survey results, three key findings became apparent.

First, you defined the need for up-to-date communication on the CCO program initiatives. Second, you identified that launch of an adequate communication tool is a priority for the CoP activities. Finally, you articulated that an opportunity to align the CME activities with the CCO quality indicator data collection and analysis is important.

Our recent activities directly related to this feedback include: the launch of a web-based communication tool and signing a formal partnership agreement with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

The CoP communication tool is a single point of contact for communication and information. It is presently being tested and will be launched in February 2005. The key advantage of this communication tool that it is a private and safe environment for surgeon-to-surgeon communication and is accessible from any computer terminal connected to Internet. Other functionalities include: on-line library, success stories, member directory, internal expertise directory, funding sources, benchmarking data, references, links to experts and resources. This communication tool is capable of effective facilitation of on-line discussions/forums to support project workflow.

To address the issue of enhancing CME activities, we signed a formal partnership agreement with

the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This is a proactive step to close a gap between learning and practice in the light of quality indicator data becoming available. (See CCO Initiatives Update.) In addition, it will help to link learning activities at the group and individual level to the formal Royal College MOC program to reward the time spent on mentoring and learning.

In order to facilitate up-to-date communication with CCO, we will provide short updates on the CCO initiatives (e.g., GTA Wait Times Pilot Project, Quality Indicators program and the Guidelines and Standards initiative) in our news bulletins, teleconferences, forums and meetings.

As we continue, we will focus more on facilitating involvement of community members into the CCO quality improvement initiatives and development of the appropriate CME tools.

CCO Initiatives Update

The quality indicators for breast, colorectal, ovarian and prostate cancer have been prioritized and we now have the list of indicators to be implemented in the first round. We are assessing the feasibility of the indicators and will move forward to implement them throughout 2005. For more information on the indicators, please visit our Web site at http://www.cancercare.on.ca/planning_surgicalOncology.htm.

Our Guidelines and Standards initiatives are moving forward. Working with the Program in Evidence-Based Care and expert panels with representation from surgical leaders and other specialties from around the province, we are developing guidelines for laparoscopic colon surgery and provincial standards for thoracic cancer surgery. For more information please contact Farrah Schwartz at farrah.schwartz@cancercare.on.ca or 416.971.5100 x1322.

The GTA Wait Times Pilot Project is complete, and the final report is available on the CCO Web site at http://www.cancercare.on.ca/pdf/SurgeryWaitTimesGTAPilot.pdf. In November, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, George Smitherman, announced $10-million in short-term investment funding for cancer surgery cases to be completed by March 31, 2005. These funds have been allocated to 20 hospitals based on the advice of Cancer Care Ontario. The partnerships now formed with these hospitals will enhance CCO's ability to measure and monitor wait times, and implement other initiatives that aim to improve access to and quality of cancer surgery across Ontario.

Regional Good News Stories

The Access to Gynaecologic Oncologist Consultation project at Credit Valley Hospital is developing into a role model for replication in other regions. The project team formed a partnership between gynaecologic oncologists from Princess Margaret Hospital and gynaecologists at Credit Valley Hospital.
Key achievements:
• A resource support from the sponsoring organizations is obtained: a program coordinator (Gynecology Oncology Regional Program) was hired to coordinate the referrals and patient records exchange between two sites
• Key performance indicators are selected and data on patients who received an appropriate treatment are collected

• Positive feedback is obtained from patients

The next step is to integrate this working scheme with the system of medical oncology. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Barry Rosen.

My Article of Interest

"Drug Sensitivity-Related Benefit of Systematic Lymphadenectomy During Cytoreductive Surgery in Optimally Debulked Stages IIIC and IV Ovarian Cancer" Seiji Isonishi, Shigeki Niimi, Hiroshi Sasaki, Kazunori Ochiai, Makoto Yasuda, and Tadao Tanaka, Gynecologic Oncology 93 (2004) 647–652

Dr. Tien Le reviewed the article, based on an interesting question of potential therapeutic benefit of complete lymphadenectomy at the time of primary cytoreductive surgery for advanced stage ovarian cancer followed by platinum-based therapy. Dr. Le thinks that this question has yet to be resolved in gynaecologic oncology. In Dr. Le's opinion, all patients with an optimal residual disease intra-abdominally after primary surgical debulking should be considered for retroperitoneal nodal debulking if that will contribute to obtaining optimal residual disease status considering the current weight of the evidence at this time. (Please contact the CoP office if you would like to see the whole review, to read a full text of the article, or to sign up for a teleconference on February 22 at 6 pm with the authors from Japan.)

Events Calendar

CoP retreat meeting

CoP office is planning a face-to-face retreat for the group of gynaecologic oncologists, tentatively on March 4, 2005. This meeting will provide group members with updates on regional initiatives in quality improvement and ongoing group projects. Please submit your suggestions for the agenda to Elena Goubanova at egoubanova@ottawahospital.on.ca or call 613.737. 7700 x 56097.

The Society of Surgical Oncology 58th Annual Cancer Symposium March 3-5, 2005, Atlanta, USA http://www.surgonc.org/sso/meet2005/teaser/meeting.htm

"Update in Gynaecologic Cancer Prevention: Issues in the Detection & Management of Cervical, Vulvar & Ovarian Neoplasia" one-day course, February 25, 2005, The Old Mill, Toronto, Ontario.

This course has been developed by University of Toronto faculty in the Departments of Radiation Oncology and Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Division of Gynaecologic Oncology. See more information at: http://www.cme.utoronto.ca/PDF/ONC0504.pdf

Call for abstracts: The society of Gynaecologic Oncologists of Canada 26th Annual Scientific Meeting, June 17-19, 2005 Quebec City, Quebec, http://www.g-o-c.org/home.asp

16th Annual Colorectal Disease Symposium: An International Exchange of Medical and Surgical Concepts, Cleveland Clinic, Florida, USA: http://www.clevelandclinic.org/florida/research/cme/colorectalDisease/CRS2005.pdf

Funding Opportunities

CIHR is extending the registration deadline for the March 2005 Operating Grants Competition by one week. The registration deadline is now Tuesday, February 8, 2005 instead of Tuesday, February 1, 2005.
http://www.ncic.cancer.ca/ncic/internet/standard/0,3621,84658243_85833436__langId-en,00.html
CIHR open competitions at: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/781.html

For more information about Communities of Practice please contact our office. Next month's news bulletin will feature a report on survey findings and tips for navigation of our communication tool.

If you have information about an interesting conference/ workshop/ case review/ publication that you would like to share with your colleagues, please let us know and we will publish it in our next news bulletin. You may fax it to 613.247.3528, e-mail it to egoubanova@ottawahospital.on.ca or just call 613.737.7700 x 56097.

Surgical Oncology CoP News Bulletin is the official newsletter for surgical Communities of Practice. You may distribute this bulletin to others that are interested. If you have questions, comments or suggestions please contact us: egoubanova@ottawahospital.on.ca, 613. 737.7700x56097.