



Navigating Gastrointestinal Cancer Patients

KIM CARSTENS, BSN, RN, OCN
ONCOLOGY NURSE NAVIGATOR

I HAVE NO FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS TO DISCLOSE

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DEFINITION OF CANCER NAVIGATION

Trained cancer nurses who provide support and guidance throughout the cancer care continuum

Help patients “navigate” through the complicated maze of cancer diagnosis, treatment, payment systems, support organizations

Goal is to facilitate timely delivery of quality care to ensure a positive experience for patients and family members

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BENEFITS OF NURSING NAVIGATION

- Improved patient outcomes related to less delays between diagnosis and start of therapy
- Greater patient satisfaction surrounding cancer care
- Reduced anxiety
- Decrease in the misuse of hospital services
- Early enlistment of financial resources
- Single point of contact

Christensen, D. & Bellomo, C. (2014)

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STEPS TO NAVIGATION

- Assess for barriers to care**
 - Transportation
 - Financial
 - Logistical
 - Language
 - Lack of social support
- Connect patient to available support services**
 - Dietitian
 - Financial counselor
 - Genetics counselor
 - Mental Health counselor

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NAVIGATING THE COLORECTAL PATIENT

- ❖ Initial contact during consultation with colorectal surgeon
- ❖ Needs assessment completed with the patient
- ❖ Help patient understand the diagnosis and rationale for treatment
- ❖ Collaborate with staff to make referrals to other cancer specialists
 - Medical Oncology
 - Radiation Oncology
 - Dietitian
 - Genetics counselor
 - Financial counselor

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POSITIVE IMPACT

ONN involvement in GI multidisciplinary care team made a significant impact on how quickly patients initiated treatment.

Retrospective study by Munoz, Farshidpour, Chaudhary, and Fathi (CJON, Vol 22 No. 5, Oct. 2018)

CHARACTERISTIC	ONN (N = 60)	NON-ONN (N = 60)
	n	n
Sex		
Male	34	35
Female	26	25
CHARACTERISTIC	\bar{x}	\bar{x}
Missed appointments	9.6	9.02
Days from diagnosis to treatment	15.15	42.93
ONN=oncology nurse navigator		

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Lee et al. (2011) found Oncology Nurse Navigators positively impacted clinical results through:

- Enhanced communication among providers, patients, and family members
- Providing more timely care
- Improved clinical outcomes by boosting access to care

ONN IMPACT ON QOL

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CASE STUDY



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TOM

- ✓ 73 y. o. male presented with perforated rectal tumor extending out of rectum with pelvic floor abscesses
- ✓ Caretaker for handicapped spouse
- ✓ Lived 45 minutes from treatment facility
- ✓ Malnourished with BMI of 17.41
- ✓ Diverting loop colostomy
- ✓ Daughter in California/Brother in Hawaii
- ✓ Too debilitated to drive
- ✓ Multiple care providers
 - ✓ Medical Oncologist
 - ✓ Radiation Oncologist
 - ✓ Urologist
 - ✓ CRC surgeon
 - ✓ Palliative Care
 - ✓ Wound Center/Ostomy nurse

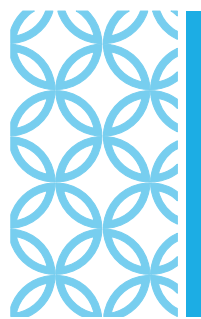
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GI ONN ACTIONS

- Find transportation for Tom for daily radiation
- Communicate with his spouse by phone
- Coordinate multiple appointments on same day
- Engage oncology dietitian in patient's care
- Educate Tom and spouse on the treatment plan
- Arrange for home care to take care of Tom and spouse

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OUTCOMES

- Tom's PS improved/abscesses healed
- Patient was able to complete all neoadjuvant therapy
- Patient resumed working in his garden during therapy
- Patient eventually able to provide support to spouse
- Patient deemed suitable for surgical resection of tumor
- Tom had successful APR – NED nearly one year
- Working part-time at pizza joint

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CONCLUSION

- Nurse Navigation is effective in the setting of GI oncology patients
- Complex patients derive the most benefit
- All patients have the right to have care expedited in a timely manner
- Oncology Nurse Navigators must triage those patients with the greatest needs and least support

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QUESTIONS??

