

Navigating Gastrointestinal Cancer Patients

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I HAVE NO FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS TO DISCLOSE

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



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)

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

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

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)

TABLE 1.

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS BY GROUP

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



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

CASE STUDY

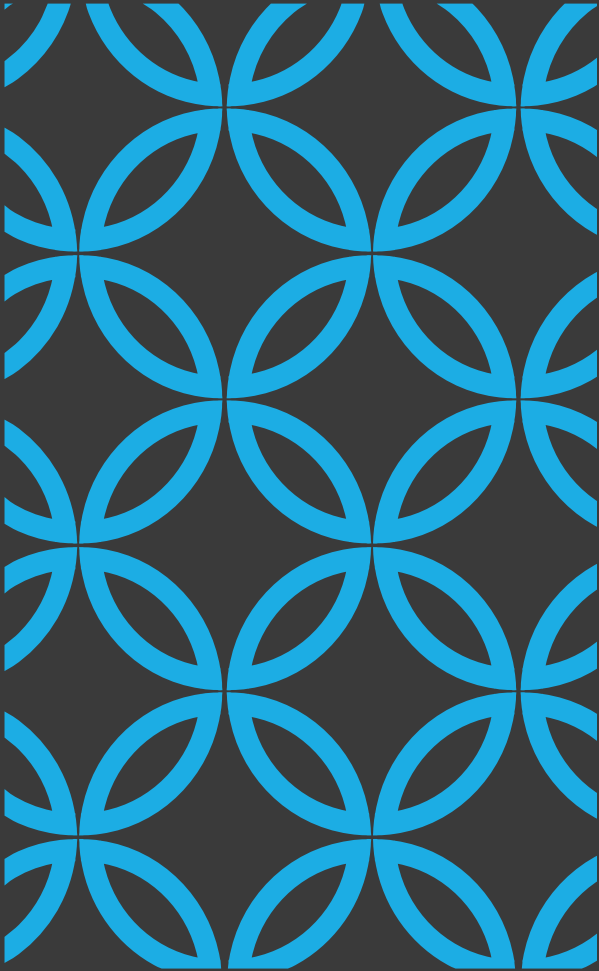
Accredited by



Commission on Cancer®
National Accreditation
Program for
Rectal Cancer

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



GI ONN ACTIONS

Find transportation for Tom for daily radiation

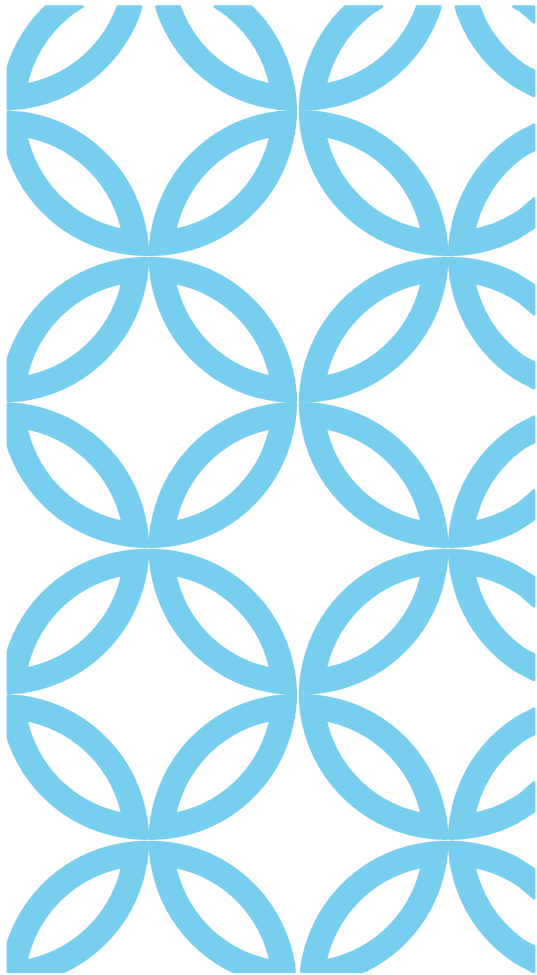
Communicate with his spouse by phone

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



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

OUTCOMES

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

QUESTIONS??

