Project ECHO: ACS Comprehensive Lung Cancer Patient Support Program

3rd Annual Meeting
December 10, 2019
Dawn Wiatrek, Ph.D.
American Cancer Society
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Interim Senior Vice President, Patient and Caregiver Support
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ECHO Hub and Spoke Model

• ECHO: Developed at the University of New Mexico, ECHO is a collaborative model of medical education and care management that empowers clinicians to provide better care to more people right where they are.

• Uses a “hub (SMEs/Facilitators) and spoke (local cancer centers) model

• Hub and spokes are connected through the Zoom web-conference platform “Virtual grand rounds meets virtual tumor board”
Lung Cancer Patient Support ECHO

• Funded by Bristol Meyers Squibb Foundation
• 13 session ECHO with goal of increasing quality of care provided to lung cancer patients in community cancer centers in 8 target states. Topics included:
  • Lung cancer screening
  • Innovations in treatment for early stage and late stage cancers
  • Disparities in care
  • Managing symptoms/comorbidities (prehab/rehab)
  • Post-treatment Survivorship
  • Communicating prognosis with patient/caregiver
• Over 20 expert faculty and facilitators
• 8 community cancer centers regularly participating
• Assessments on each session (CEUs provided)
• Small grants offered to improve implementation of lessons learned
Lessons Learned and Next Steps

Recruitment/engagement of Spoke sites can be challenging:

- Working directly with individual cancer centers is not always the most efficient approach
- Individual Cancer Centers may want to receive CE from experts that are familiar with their area/region (i.e. cultural differences/concerns)
- Offering small grants to promote implementation of lessons learned can be used to promote participation
- Challenging to get entire cancer team to attend sessions (timing of sessions is important)
- Challenges identifying sites to provide case studies

Opportunities for collaboration identified:

- Community cancer centers and larger high volume, specialized centers
- Navigation: Within and across systems
- Tobacco cessation: Aligning with evidence based practices

Don’t stop after a single clinic

- How do we use the resources created to continue to improve quality care (broader dissemination)
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