

Early Identification for Fertility Preservation Improves Referrals in a Community Oncology Practice

CLEO VALDEZ, CRNP, AOCNP, ANNE MARIE F. RAINEY, MSN, RN, CHC, JENNIFER BUNN, CRNP, FNP-C, SUMANTH BAIL, MS

BACKGROUND

- Fertility preservation is a major concern of adolescents and young adults (AYAs, age 15-39) with cancer
- There is a gap in practice to address the potential impact of gonadotoxic cancer treatment on fertility
- APPs, along with a software developer and the quality department, implemented National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) concordant guidelines for oncofertility referrals

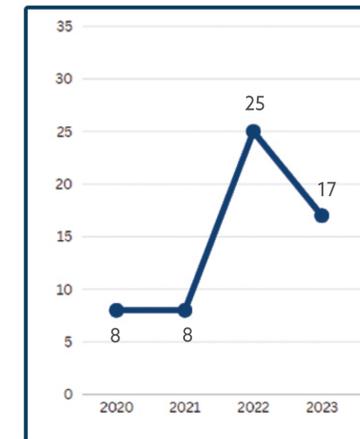
METHODS

- Quantitative analysis of patient referral activities
- Partnership with local reproductive endocrinologists
- Automation was used in identifying patients that met the selection criteria and the generation of email notifications to the APPs. All EHR data collected in this process were stored in a database for tracking, auditing and reporting purposes
- APPs educated the multidisciplinary team on fertility preservation, conducting needs assessments, counseling, referrals, and general education for AYAs with cancer

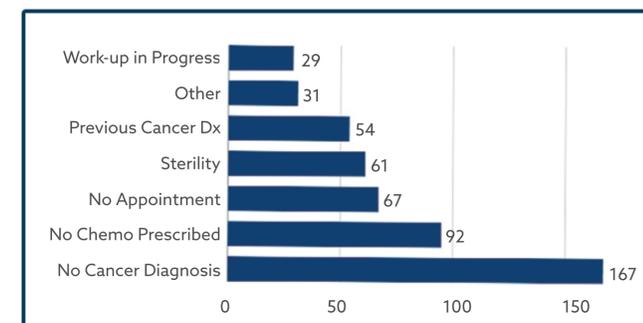
APP driven fertility preservation initiative with automated identification improves fertility counseling and increases referrals for AYAs with cancer.

REFERRAL RATES

2020: 8
2021: 8
2022: 25
2023: 17



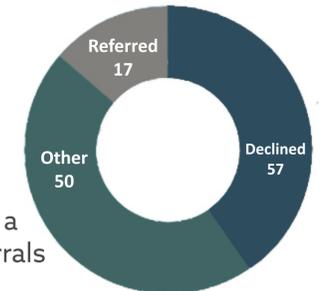
INELIGIBLE AYA PATIENTS
N=502



RESULTS

- 605 AYAs identified in 2023 as potential candidates for referrals
- During the initial pilot program from 2020-2021, there was a 212% increase in referrals

Eligible AYA Patient Referral Status
N=124



- 502 identified patients (83%) in 2023 were ineligible for referral due to a diagnosis other than cancer, previously addressed fertility needs, sterility, etc.
- 5 patients received financial assistance to support fertility preservation needs

CONCLUSIONS

- APP-driven fertility preservation initiative mitigated an unmet need in the AYA population in the community setting
- With automated identification, counseling and referrals increased two-fold during the pilot period
- APP led education for referral algorithms, counseling, etc. stimulated buy-in for APP oncofertility conversations

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create partnerships with local non-profit cancer organizations for grant funding to supplement AYA fertility preservation needs
- Automated reports and notifications are integral in the success of patient identification to ensure prompt counseling and referral
- Data review should be completed early and often to ensure counseling and/or referrals are in place & feedback can be provided to APPs



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