



SAIL INSTITUTE

*Empowering Strategic, Academic,
and Innovative Leadership*



University at Buffalo

The State University of New York

Expanding Complex Gastro-Intestinal Cancer Tumor Board in the Community

SAIL presentation

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What is Multidisciplinary Cancer Care?

- MDCC weekly meeting involving multiple specialties discussing accuracy of diagnosis staging and treatment options
- Can be general (GI cancers) or very specific (liver tumor board)
- MDCC is widely utilized in major cancer centers
- MDC can be utilized for non cancer cases as well (getting the correct diagnosis can be very challenging in cancer care)
- Providers are leaving the traditional silo mentality behind and focus shifter to multidisciplinary approach
- Recommended management can change in up to 25% of cases
- Participation in MDCC as a trainee made me a cancer surgeon

Multidisciplinary Cancer Care possible benefits

- Shared decision making (clinical and medico-legal)
- Learning opportunity for attendings and trainees alike (staying on top)
- CME hours
- Facilitate time to next/new clinic visit
- Fertile ground for multidisciplinary cancer clinic
- Opportunity to remote participation with virtual tumor boards
- Increase awareness of standards of care
- Develop a center known for specialty care
- Expand internal and external referral base
- Learning how patients do long term (representations)

Opportunity

- 2/3 of WNY cancer patients are cared for outside of RPCI
- Lot of newly diagnosed or recurrent cases in our system
- Several cases in WNY with advanced disease or recurrence that would have possibly benefited from higher level discussion and advanced planning
- Very few of these patients were discussed in MDC prior to our GLCC tumor boards to our knowledge
- Previous attempts within the system were relatively short lived
- Track and measure cancer care outcomes
- Cancer care quality improvement
- Promote evidence-based medicine
- Make a significant impact on resident education

Complex GI Cancer Care Team

- Medical oncology
- Radiation oncology
- Surgical oncology
- Pathology
- Interventional Radiology
- Nutrition
- Social worker
- Nurse navigation
- Genetic counseling

Challenges

- Distance: 3 UB teaching hospitals and numerous physician offices far away from each other
- Provider schedule: coordination of best times between multiple services
- Location
- Unfamiliarity with format
- Uncertainty about benefits of participation
- Uncomfortable presenting own cases in front of multiple other providers
- No direct reimbursement for time
- Bringing together services that did not work together before at this level

Challenges

- Providing treatment and follow up plans that maybe different from previous individual and group practices (set in their ways)
- Concerns about giving up independent decision making
- Breaking habits
- No previous metrics to compare
- Participation is time consuming
- Decisions must be communicated to patients
- Resources
- Pandemic

Formula

- Commitment from the system and leaders/chairs to improve patient care in terms of timeliness and general quality
- Initial steps guided by consultant services
- Hiring appropriate specialist and utilizing available talent
- Strong commitment from individuals familiar and unfamiliar with the model but committed to improve care (calling in from vacation/being present weekly)
- Ease of posting cases
- Developing a collegial relationship between all services involved (make friends)
- Building on each others strength and improving on weaknesses
- Making people comfortable presenting cases and realizing the multiple benefits of this format
- Ongoing communication (group text message, email)

Formula

- Summary of treatment plan within minutes of the end of the conference
- Data collection and presentation of actual progress
- Community outreach: increasing awareness of a new service being available within our system
- Education: Medical/Surgical Grand rounds, Mini Grand Rounds, PCP events
- Education: Resident education via structured lecture series, summer surgical oncology lecture series (SSOLS Season #4)
- Combined community screening events: BGH/SH screening for liver cancer in high-risk population (bringing hospital leadership, PCP, GI medicine radiology surgery together)
- Further expanding opportunity to present to outside medical/radiation oncologist, gastroenterologist (zoom format helps with distance)

GLCC MDC

- Weekly 2 hr systemwide GI tumor board started in 2019
 - 563 presentations in 2020 in the first year of pandemic
 - 541 presentations in 2021 in the middle of pandemic
 - Substantial improvement in numerous clinical and quality metrics (clinical work up, staging accuracy, evaluation of nutrition services, accuracy and timeliness of restaging, review of controversial radiology and pathology reports)
 - Silos broken down

Impact

- Numbers speak for themselves (563 and 541 presentations per year)
- Significant improvement in compliance with multiple objective metrics:
 - staging/treatment guidelines
 - Screening/availability clinical trials
 - referral to various support services
 - nutrition, navigation, survivorship
- Colon cancer initial staging work up compliance improved to 100%
- Stage 3 and 4 colon cancer cases presented in MDC improved to 100%
- Establishing mechanism for referring outpatients with cancer to nutrition
- Helping achieve multiple metrics for Commission on Cancer accreditation for the hospital

Impact

- Ability to tell patients they underwent shared multidisciplinary decision-making process
- Provider feedback (formal/informal, positive and negative)
- Obtaining immediate second opinions
- Teaching/Fellow, Resident and student participation (learning opportunity)
- Track number of changes in treatment plan (can be difficult)

Thank you

- Dr. Steven Schwaitzberg Department of Surgery Chair/mentor
- Kaleida Health leadership
- Multiple Department Chairs (medicine, pathology, radiology)
- Devoted colleagues and other support services
- SAIL institute for the opportunity to participate in course and learn new management skills: patience, communication, embracing relationship, find your interest and go for it