Treatment Summaries for Head and Neck Cancer Survivors: Improving Patient Self Efficacy and Survivorship Care

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Introduction

• The treatment summary (TS) is a comprehensive cancer care record. It contains information regarding provider names and contact information, cancer diagnosis, tumor characteristics and treatment details.
• Incorporation of a comprehensive oncologic TS to assist with care coordination is a core element of survivorship care and was recommended by the Institute of Medicine in 2006.1
• The TS as a survivorship tool is endorsed by the National Coalition of Cancer Survivor, American Cancer Society, American Head and Neck Society.2
• In 2018, the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons required that 80% of eligible patients receive TS for its accredited programs.
• Despite this recent mandate, a recent survey of head and neck surgeons showed that only 43.1% of respondents were administering a TS to their head and neck cancer (HNC) survivors.3
• While the usefulness of treatment summaries has been evaluated in other cancer types including breast and colorectal cancer4, it has yet to be studied in HNC survivors.

Methods and Materials

• Non-interventional study enrolling patients at TJUH – Center City from May 2019 to May 2020.
• Patients will be surveyed about details of their diagnosis and treatment, and regarding the perceived usefulness of a TS form at baseline (completion of treatment).
• Patients will be re-surveyed about their diagnosis and treatment, and usefulness of the TS at their six month follow-up visit to determine if the TS improved their ability to recall these details.

Objective

To determine if receiving treatment summaries enhances patient understanding and recall of cancer and treatment details, improves patient self-efficacy, and serves as a useful tool after completion of head and neck (HNC) therapy.

Prior to Study Visit 1

• Identify patients completing HNC therapy
• Screen potential participants by inclusion and exclusion criteria
• Prepare treatment summaries

Study Visit 1

Baseline Assessments:
1. HNC History Questionnaire
2. TS Patient Feedback Survey

Follow-Up Assessments:
1. HNC History Questionnaire
2. TS Patient Feedback Survey

Figure 1. Timing of survivorship care plan delivery.

Study Visit 2

6 months

Discussion and Conclusions

• The treatment summary is an essential component of a survivorship care plan and should be given to all head and neck cancer survivors at the completion of their therapy.
• This study will help us better understand the patient derived benefits of receiving a TS upon completion of cancer therapy.

References


Figure 2. Schematic of study design.

Figure 3. Summary of treatment summaries.

Figure 4. Patient Survey Forms.

Figure 5. Treatment Summary Form.

Figure 6. Treatment Summary Form.