

Oncologists, PCPs differ in cancer follow-up concerns

June 10 2013



Medical oncologists and primary care physicians report different barriers/concerns in cancer follow-up care to be problematic, according to research published online May 20 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

(HealthDay)—Medical oncologists (MOs) and primary care physicians (PCPs) report different barriers/concerns in cancer follow-up care to be problematic, according to research published online May 20 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Katherine S. Virgo, Ph.D., M.B.A., from Emory University in Atlanta, and colleagues analyzed data from a nationally representative sample of participants in the 2009 Survey of Physician Attitudes Regarding the Care of [Cancer Survivors](#). Comparisons were made between PCP and MO responses to 10 physician-perceived [cancer survivorship](#) care barriers/concerns.

The researchers found that, based on responses from 2,202 physicians (1,072 PCPs and 1,130 MOs), in assessing patient-related barriers, MOs were more likely than PCPs to report patient language barriers (odds ratio [OR], 1.72), insurance restrictions impeding test/treatment use (OR, 1.42), and patients requesting more aggressive testing (OR, 4.08). In assessing physician-related barriers, PCPs were more likely than MOs to report inadequate training (OR, 3.06) and ordering additional tests/treatments because of malpractice concerns (OR, 1.87). With respect to general preventive care responsibility, MOs were more likely to report uncertainty.

"MOs and PCPs perceive different cancer follow-up care barriers/concerns to be problematic," the authors write.

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Citation: Oncologists, PCPs differ in cancer follow-up concerns (2013, June 10) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-06-oncologists-pcps-differ-cancer-follow-up.html>

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