

Many hospitalized people with advanced cancer struggle with important daily tasks

June 8 2020

JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK



NCCN Guidelines®

• HODGKIN LYMPHOMA

NCCN Guidelines® Insights

• CERVICAL CANCER

ONCOLOGY WATCH

My Two-Dimensional Life
Tempero M

THE LAST WORD

Antiemetic Guidelines: Not Just for the HEC of It
Klute KA

MOLECULAR INSIGHTS IN PATIENT CARE

BRAF-Mutated Erdheim-Chester Disease:
Profound Response to Vemurafenib Visualized
With Serial Multimodality Imaging
Gray JCR, Kim J, Digianvittorio M, et al

REVIEW

Treating Elderly Patients With Muscle-Invasive
Bladder Cancer
Kessler ER, Kukreja JB, Geiger CL, and Fischer SM

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

What the HEC? Clinician Adherence to
Evidence-Based Antiemetic Prophylaxis for
Highly Emetogenic Chemotherapy
Roeland EJ, Ruddy KJ, LeBlanc TW, et al

Treatment of Stage IV Colon Cancer in the
United States: A Patterns-of-Care Analysis
Gao X, Kahl AR, Goffredo P, et al

Patient Satisfaction and Quality of Life Before and
After Treatment of Pancreatic and Periampullary
Cancer: A Prospective Multicenter Study
Mackay TM, van Rijssen LB, Andriessen JO, et al

Serial Assessment of Urinary Incontinence in Breast
Cancer Survivors Undergoing (Neo)Adjuvant Therapy
Chung CP, Behrendt C, Wong L, et al

Effects of Postoperative Radiotherapy on Survival
of Patients With Stage IIIA Resected Non-Small
Cell Lung Cancer: Analysis of the SEER Database
Gao F, Li N, Xu Y, and Yang G

Geographic Variations of Potentially Curative
Treatments for Hepatocellular Carcinoma in the
United States: A SEER-Medicare Study
Cheng E, Hung P, and Wang SY

Functional Impairment, Symptom Burden, and
Clinical Outcomes Among Hospitalized Patients
With Advanced Cancer
Lage DE, El-Jawahri A, Fuh CX, et al

New research from Mass General Cancer Center, published in the June 2020 issue of *JNCCN—Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network*, found 40.2% of hospitalized patients with advanced, incurable cancer were functionally impaired at the time of admission, meaning they needed assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) like walking, bathing, getting dressed, or other routine tasks. Patients with functional impairment also had higher rates of pain, depression, and anxiety, and were more likely to have longer hospital stays and worse survival.

"Interventions addressing [patients' functional impairment](#) and symptom management could help enhance care delivery and outcomes for the highly symptomatic population of hospitalized patients with [advanced cancer](#)," said lead researcher Daniel E. Lage, MD, MsC, Mass General Cancer Center. "This highlights the need for efforts to integrate functional assessments into the care of these patients to identify individuals who may benefit from physical therapy, [palliative care](#), and/or other supportive services earlier in their hospital stay. Our finding that individuals with functional impairment experience worse survival could also help guide conversations about goals of care and hospice planning among hospitalized patients with [cancer](#)."

"We are also actively exploring interventions to help patients transition from the inpatient to the outpatient setting, which we have identified as a key challenge for patients with functional impairment," added senior researcher Ryan D. Nipp, MD, MPH, Mass General Cancer Center. "Future work is needed to develop novel models of care to enhance access to palliative care services and address barriers that limit appropriate access to palliative care among patients with advanced

cancer."

The researchers studied 970 patients age 18-and-older with advanced cancer—defined as those not being treated with curative intent—who experienced an unplanned hospital admission at Mass General Cancer Center between September 2, 2014 and March 31, 2016. They measured functional impairment using nursing documentation collected at intake and stored in electronic health records (EHR), and also collected self-completed questionnaires from the patients. ADL impairment was defined as any need for assistance by another person. Overall, 390 patients (40.2%) had at least one ADL impairment with 14.8% having one or two, and 25.4% experiencing at least three areas of difficulty with daily tasks.

"Oncologists have long appreciated that functional status is a powerful predictor of a number of important outcomes including survival and treatment outcomes," commented Toby Campbell, MD, Chief of Palliative Care at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center, who was not involved in this research. "We know that the routine assessment of symptom burden and functional status in the outpatient setting results in improved survival and quality of life."

Dr. Campbell, a Member of the NCCN Guidelines Panel for Palliative Care, continued: "Dr. Lage and colleagues highlight the important, often-missed, opportunity to routinely use hospitalization as a trigger for a careful assessment of symptoms and functional status. An unplanned hospitalization for an advanced cancer patient is a watershed moment and predicts higher symptoms and shorter survival in patients with and without impaired function. Hospitalization is a crucial opportunity to facilitate critical serious illness care, including comprehensive palliative care and advanced care planning, with the promise of improving the lives of our patients."

More information: Daniel E. Lage et al, Functional Impairment, Symptom Burden, and Clinical Outcomes Among Hospitalized Patients With Advanced Cancer, *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network* (2020). [DOI: 10.6004/jnccn.2019.7385](https://doi.org/10.6004/jnccn.2019.7385)

Provided by National Comprehensive Cancer Network

Citation: Many hospitalized people with advanced cancer struggle with important daily tasks (2020, June 8) retrieved 12 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-06-hospitalized-people-advanced-cancer-struggle.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.