UPAKE OF CLINICAL CANCER GENETICS RESOURCES INDICATED BY COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS WHO OFFER BRCA1 AND BRCA2 TESTING

Courtney Lewis, Susan Vadaparampil, Andrea Doty, Tuya Pal
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute

BACKGROUND

• Commercial marketing of genetic testing in combination with a shortage of trained genetics professionals has increased the number of community healthcare providers offering genetic testing without the aid of a certified genetics professional.

• Successful strategies for delivering genetic counseling and testing services include academic-community partnerships focused on collaboration with community healthcare providers without formal genetics training.

• Recognizing the limited number of trained genetics professionals, we sought to offer resources to practitioners state-wide who offer genetic testing for BRCA1/2.

OBJECTIVE

• To assess the uptake of cancer genetics resources among a sample of Florida-based healthcare providers offering BRCA 1/2 testing.

METHODS

• A survey was disseminated to healthcare providers in Florida offering BRCA1/2 testing to explore current cancer risk assessment practices.

• A supplemental resource card was included in which participants had the option to request access to several provider-targeted resources.

• Resources were made available through the Inherited Cancer Registry (ICARE) initiative and included: bi-monthly genetics case conferences, clinical cancer genetics resource guide, ICARE newsletter, and an overview of ICARE by a certified genetic counselor (CGC).

CONCLUSIONS

• The need for and interest in ongoing educational opportunities/resources among community providers is highlighted by the majority of respondents requesting access to at least one provider resource.

• The range of specialties underscores the importance of providing educational resources to those involved with genetic testing.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

• The level of interest expressed by our sample in attending a formal genetic counseling training program highlights the need for developing targeted educational opportunities to accommodate a variety of healthcare professionals from different backgrounds and specialties.

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