Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Led Initiative to Improve Germline Testing for Pancreatic Cancer in a Multi-Location Practice

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INTRODUCTION:

- Pancreatic cancer remains the third leading cause of cancer related death in the United States.
- Pharmacologic advancements related germiline mutations such as BRCA ½ & PALB2 now exist
- Identification of germline mutations can lead to alternative therapeutic options, allow for risk stratification and surveillance recommendations for affected family members.
- As of 2019, NCCN recommends germline testing for all eligible patients with a current or past diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.
- Previous efforts to increase compliance with germline testing within our practice included chart reviews and messages sent to providers, however this proved unsuccessful.

BARRIERS:

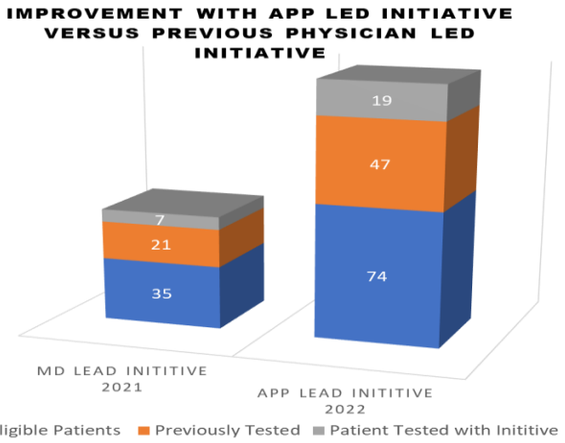
- EMR limitations, system does not provide prompts based on diagnosis
- Lack of standardization of genetic testing preference amongst providers
- Difference of opinions regarding the role of uniform testing for individuals with a history of pancreatic cancer
- Human errors with lack of order placement and/or incorrect order placement within the portal

Sample Spreadsheet

Diagnosis Type	Upcoming visit date	Visit Type	Clinic	Upcoming Visit Provider	Genetic testing a
Pancreas	9/20/22	MD (15min)	Jersey City	Patel, Amit	No
Pancreas	9/29/22	MD (20min)	Monroe	Fein MD, Robert P	No
Pancreas	9/28/22	MD (15min)	East Brunswick	Kazemi MD, Mohammad H	No
Pancreas	9/19/22	MD (20min)	Robbinsville	Kiley NP, Lauren	No
Pancreas	9/26/22	MD (15min)	Edison	Lloyd NP, Darria	No
Pancreas	9/28/22	MD (15min)	Robbinsville	Pancari MD, Philip A	No
Pancreas	9/21/22	MD Initial Hosp F/U	Somerset	Lampert, Craig	No
Pancreas	9/21/22	MD Initial Hosp F/U	Edison	Canavan MD, Brian F	No

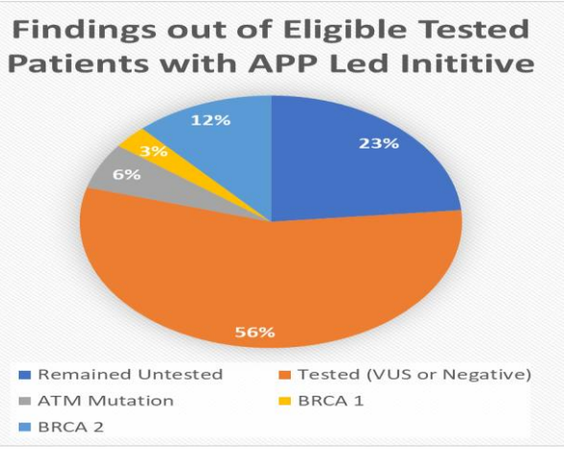
METHODS:

- An Advanced Practice Provider (APP) driven initiative was developed, with the use of an algorithm. A report was created by IT, to identify all patients with past and current diagnosis of pancreatic adenocarcinoma who had not previously undergone germline testing with an upcoming appointment
- The report was run weekly for all seven locations, identifying all patients scheduled within the coming week.
- The office designated APP would confirm pathology and contact the patient to review recommendations for germline testing prior to the appointment, and if the patient consented, and order was placed in the EMR for a sample to be acquired at the upcoming appointment.



RESULTS:

- From 1/31/2022 to 6/10/2022 74 patients with current or past diagnosis of pancreatic cancer were identified as having up coming appointments
- Of these, 47 (63%) had previously undergone germline testing.
- Our Advanced Practice Provider Lead initiative led to genetic testing of 19 more patients of the remaining 27 (70%).
- Overall compliance increased to 89%.



CONCLUSION:

- Utilization of APPs in the standardization of genetic testing has proven to be a viable delivery method for increasing compliance with guideline recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Integration and utilization of EMR for identification of eligible patients and order completion still requires improvement.
- The goal is to have automated EMR prompts for genetic testing whenever a pancreatic cancer diagnosis code is entered within a new patient chart, and to establish an alert system for the identification of existing patients who have not received germline testing prior.
- In the future, we plan to apply this method to molecular testing in other disease processes, hopefully utilizing ancillary staff in the report processing.