Psychosocial, Symptom, and Quality of Life Predictors of Participant Retention in an Internet-Based Symptom Management Study for Women with Recurrent Ovarian Cancer

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12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
UPMC Shadyside
Hillman Cancer Center
Cooper Classroom C

Light lunch provided. Please contact Jessica Poli (polij@upmc.edu) if you plan to attend, need directions, or need more information. The Cooper Classrooms are located on the ground level of the Hillman Cancer Center, 5115 Centre Avenue, Shadyside. After entering the building walk to the left past the elevators. Facing the gift shop turn right down the hallway. Room C is the 3rd door in the lobby area on the left.

BRAIN, BEHAVIOR, AND CANCER
Seminar Series
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Abstract: The WRITE Symptoms (Written Representational Intervention to Ease Symptoms) Study is a 3-arm randomized controlled trial of an Internet-based intervention to improve symptom management for women with recurrent ovarian cancer conducted through the GOG. Women with recurrent or persistent ovarian, fallopian, or primary peritoneal cancer who were experiencing 3 or more bothersome symptoms were eligible. Women (n=497) were accrued from 53 GOG-affiliated sites. Following completion of valid, reliable measures of socio-demographics, optimism (LOT-R), depressive symptoms (CES-D), cancer- and treatment-related symptoms (SRQ), and QOL (FACT-O), women were randomized to: enhanced care-as-usual, self-directed WRITE Symptoms, or nurse-delivered WRITE Symptoms. All participants completed follow-up measures monthly for one year. All cause study attrition variables (including death, disease progression, and drop-out) were created at 4 (end of primary aims) and 12 months. Baseline scores on key variables were then compared between those who were retained and those who were not. At 4 months, 380 women (76.5%) were still on study. Those who were retained on study had lower (p<.01) baseline depressive symptoms, higher optimism, more years of education, higher QOL, and lower mean symptom severity compared to those who were not retained on study. At one year, 287 women (58.1%) had completed the full study. Only baseline depressive symptoms, QOL and symptom severity were associated with (p<.01) participant retention for the full year. Age, marital status, income, children in the home, and employment status were not associated with participant retention (p>.05). Discussion will focus on retention strategies used and need to identify ways to help cancer survivors with high physical and psychological symptom burden participate in Internet-based supportive care interventions.

CME Faculty Disclosure
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