

Perceptions About Cancer Clinical Trials Among Prostate Cancer Survivors

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Background

- Clinical trials are an important mechanism to advance innovation and quality patient care, yet patient participation in clinical trials remains low in the United States.
- Recruitment into prostate cancer clinical trials (CCTs) remains challenging despite efforts to enhance patient understanding of and access to CCTs.

Aims

- The objective of this study was to examine perceptions of CCTs among prostate cancer (PC) survivors in the Cancer Support Community's Cancer Experience Registry sample.

Methods

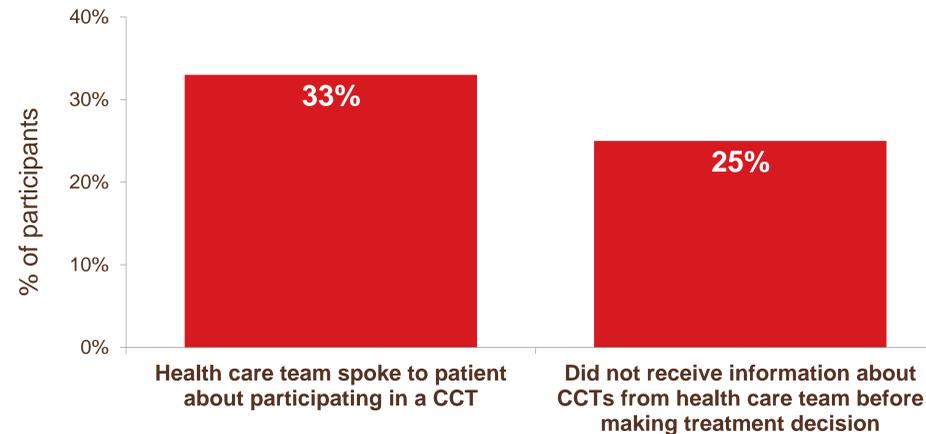
- 86 PC survivors enrolled in the Cancer Support Community's Cancer Experience Registry, provided demographic and clinical history, and rated their agreement (0 = *strongly disagree* to 4 = *strongly agree*) with eight statements about cancer clinical trials (CCTs).
- Bivariate associations between CCT counseling and individual factors (sociodemographic information, where treatment received, history of CCT counseling and CCT participation) were examined via Spearman's rank correlation and chi-square tests.

Participants

	N = 86	Mean/ n	SD / %
Age (years)		65	7
		Range: 50 – 85	
White	82		95%
Time since diagnosis (years)	4		4
Treatment history			
Surgery	21		24%
Radiation	29		34%
Both surgery and radiation	17		20%
Hormone therapy (current)	14		16%
Hormone therapy (past)	7		8%
Disease status			
Diagnosed 5+ years ago	27		32%
Recurrence	19		22%
Metastatic disease	26		31%

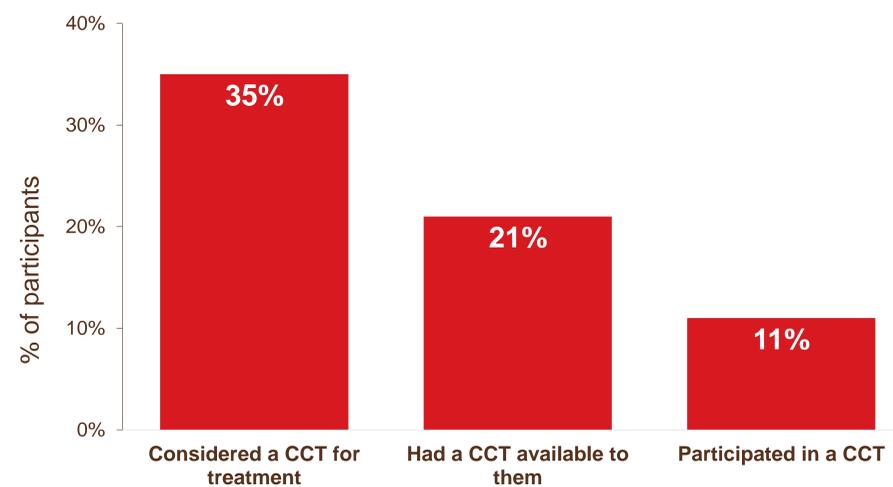
Results

Cancer Clinical Trials Participation and Communication



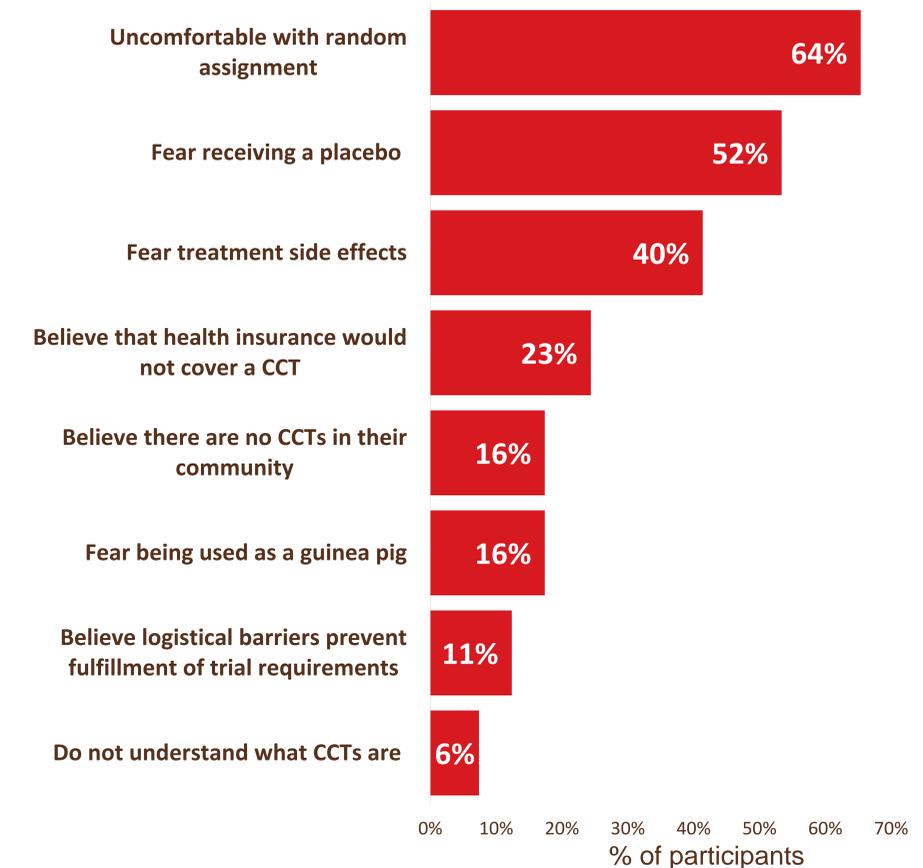
- One-third of respondents reported that their health care team spoke to them about participating in a CCT.
- There was a non-significant trend between being counseled about participating in a CCT and where cancer care was received; 47% reported that their health care team spoke to them about participating in a CCT if all or part of care was received at an academic or comprehensive cancer center or private oncology practice vs. 24% if care was received at a community hospital/cancer center ($\chi^2=3.03, p=.082$).

Cancer Clinical Trial (CCT) Availability and Participation



- Among all prostate cancer survivors participating in this study, about 1 in 5 reported that they had a clinical trial available to them.
- More than a third of prostate cancer participants considered a clinical trial for their treatment, and about 1 in 10 participated in clinical trial.

Beliefs and Perceptions about Cancer Clinical Trials



- Almost two thirds of participants reported feeling uncomfortable with random assignment.
- Over half of participants feared receiving a placebo; 4 in 10 feared treatment side effects.

Implications and Conclusions

- Many prostate cancer survivors are uncomfortable with random assignment to treatment in a CCT and fear receiving a potentially ineffective placebo.
- These findings also underscore that the majority of prostate cancer survivors do not recall having conversations with their providers about CCTs.
- There is a need to support comprehensive discussions between patients and providers about all prostate cancer treatment options, including CCTs, as well as innovative efforts to raise awareness and education about CCTs.
- Multivariate analysis will enhance understanding of factors contributing to clinical trial perceptions among prostate cancer survivors.

Acknowledgments

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References

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