Background

Treatment by a multidisciplinary health care team can improve patient outcomes among people living with cancer, but the extent to which prostate cancer (PC) patients in the community access specialty providers remains unclear.

Aims

This study explored, in a national sample of prostate cancer patients, 1) associations between number of providers and treatments discussed/received, and 2) predictors of informed treatment decision-making and treatment regret.

Methods

Of 311 PC patients enrolled in the Cancer Support Community’s online Cancer Experience Registry, 181 indicated seeing one or more physicians during treatment (primary care provider, urologist, radiation oncologist, medical oncologist, pain specialist). Informed decision-making and treatment regret were measured using the Prostate Cancer Outcomes Measures; each scale was calculated as the sum of 5 individual items (1=not at all to 5=very much) and standardized to range between 0 and 100. In logistic regression analysis, we modeled high levels of informed decision-making (=75 out of 100) and treatment regret (<25 out of 100), adjusting for stage at diagnosis and number of treatments discussed.

Results

The Cancer Experience Registry is an online research initiative that captures the immediate and ongoing or changing social and emotional experiences of cancer survivors and their caregivers.

Conclusions

Advanced prostate cancer patients are more likely than those with early stage disease at diagnosis to be treated by both a urologist and at least one oncology specialist.

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References


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For more information, visit cancerexperienceregistry.org.

Learn more or join the Registry at www.CancerExperienceRegistry.org.

Health Care Team and Treatment Decision-Making Experiences Among Prostate Cancer Patients

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Among Prostate Cancer Patients

Pain Specialist

Primary Care Provider

Medical Oncologist

Surgery

Medical Oncology

Prostate Cancer Treatment(s) Received

Prostate Cancer Treatment(s) Discussed with Provider

Types of Providers Seen During Prostate Cancer Treatment

Logistic Regression Analysis Predicting High Levels of Informed Decision-Making and Low Levels of Treatment Regret

Conclusions

Advanced prostate cancer patients are more likely than those with early stage disease at diagnosis to be treated by both a urologist and at least one oncology specialist.

Patients seeing multiple providers were more likely to discuss chemotherapy and cancer clinical trials but less likely to discuss surgery and active surveillance.

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