

Project Team

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Description

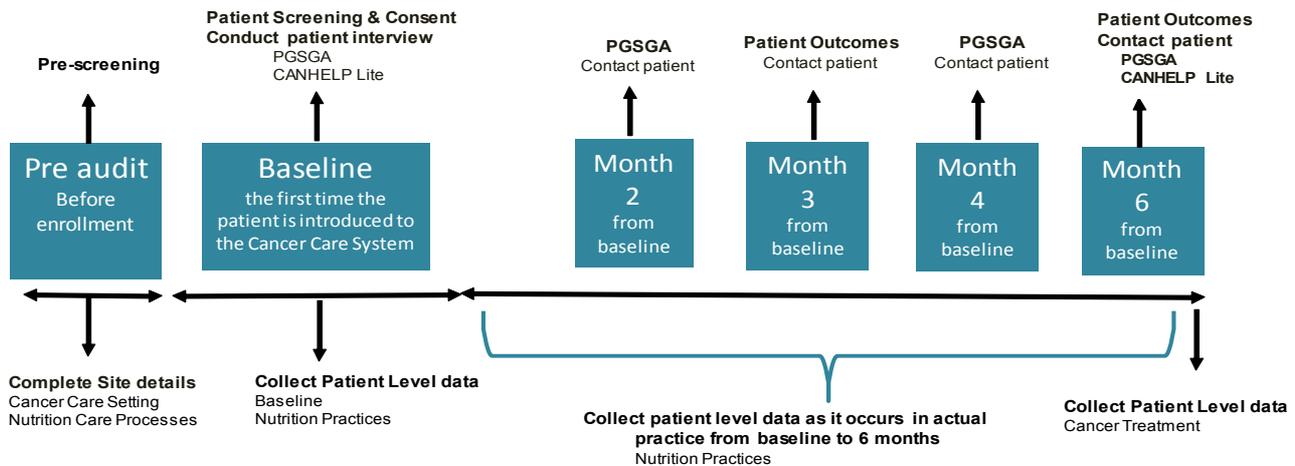
INFORM is an international, multicentre, prospective, inception cohort study of current nutrition practices of patients with foregut tumors (esophageal and/or head & neck cancer) in cancer care settings in Canada, Europe, Australia and the US.

Rationale/Background

Patients with foregut tumors are at extremely high risk for developing malnutrition and cachexia due to the complex nature of their disease process. This is complicated by the treatment trajectory for these patients which spans several months and commonly includes multi-modality therapy provided by a wide variety of care providers. The nature and treatment of these cancers have a significant impact on clinical and patient related outcomes as they relate to nutrition care. Our recent work across multiple European cancer settings has identified the need to enhance the evidence base of nutrition care in foregut tumors, to establish a minimum dataset (allowing creation of standardized nutrition care pathways) and the need to conduct an audit of current nutrition practices to identify variations in care, their impact on outcomes and to highlight opportunities for improvement.

Activities

We have finalized the study protocol, data elements and patient generated questionnaires with input from the project team and experts in nutrition, surgery and oncology. Ethics approval has been sought for the Canadian sites. Grants have been obtained to support the development of the database and for data analysis. Resources are now needed to support the data collection and coordination at other sites approximating 0.5 full time equivalents of research coordinator, dietitian or designate per site. See diagram below for study activities and data elements.



Implementation

Prior to large-scale definitive audit, we will start with a pilot phase in which 150-200 patients from 6-8 Cancer Care settings in Europe, Australia and North America will be recruited. Participating sites will be recruited through our existing network of practitioners who were involved in our previous work. Each site will enroll 20-40 patients with foregut tumors and collect data on current practices for up to 6 months. The pilot will start in June 2016 at two Canadian sites and in the Fall 2016 at other sites. We anticipate patient enrollment to be completed within 2 years. Following the pilot phase, our goal is to engage multiple centers to gather data on approximately 1000 patients with both esophageal and head and neck tumors to allow us to expand the database from which we can make stronger inferences.

Results, Outcomes and Conclusions

The primary objective of this audit is to describe current key nutrition care practices in Cancer Care settings in North America, Europe and Australia. Secondary objectives are to determine if the route, timing or adequacy of nutrition and patient generated experiences correlate with outcomes i.e. survival, complications related to cancer treatment, unplanned re-admissions, treatment tolerance and toxicity. This study is therefore, well positioned to shed a light on the high nutrition risk population of foregut tumors. By establishing a "benchmark" for excellence in nutrition care in foregut tumors, we will share key learnings from this initiative, aim to standardize the quality of nutrition care and support knowledge mobilization for both patients and cancer care providers across the world.



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To Whom It May Concern:

The Canadian Nutrition Society/la Société canadienne de nutrition (CNS-SCN), a national PEN Society, is pleased to offer its support and endorsement for the **International Nutrition Audit in FOregut TuMors: Inform** project that is being submitted to the *2016 MNI Grant Submission Initiative for Optimal Nutritional Care Approach*. This project is being submitted by a dynamic team of experts from Canada, the US, Europe and Australia.

The CNS is committed to providing support throughout its delivery. The CNS contact person will be:

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sarah Robbins, MD, MSc, FRCPC

CNS President