

Improving coordination of care between family physicians and cancer care: findings from CanIMPACT

Workshop, 60 minutes.

Learning objectives:

1. Learn the factors associated with coordination of cancer care (from diagnosis to survivorship) and how those vary across Canada.
2. Learn about models of care to improve coordination between family physicians and cancer care and how those vary across Canada.
3. Learn about FPs' experiences and needs related to cancer risk assessment and other aspects of personalized cancer medicine.

Description:

Family Physicians (FPs) are the first and most frequent point of contact for cancer patients within the healthcare system during most phases of cancer care. Coordination of care between FPs and cancer specialists is vital to improve the quality and outcomes of care and yet is known to be problematic. Patients often need to consult many health professionals across multiple healthcare settings. This often leads to fragmented and uncoordinated care. The introduction of models of care and tools to improve coordination of care is essential to optimize the role of FPs along the breadth of the cancer care continuum, including cancer risk assessment.

The Canadian Team to Improve Community-Based Cancer Care along the Continuum (CanIMPACT) is a pan Canadian multidisciplinary team of FPs, cancer specialists, and researchers who have undertaken a comprehensive analysis of coordination of cancer care (from diagnosis to survivorship) across Canada. At this workshop, the findings of CanIMPACT will be presented related to the coordination and quality of cancer care and how that varies across Canada based on: 1) patient care during cancer diagnosis, chemotherapy treatment, and follow-up/survivorship using administrative health databases; 2) patient and provider experiences and perspectives derived from focus groups and individual interviews; 3) models of care, tools and strategies aimed at improving coordination of care that have been introduced across Canada or in other countries; and 4) FPs' experiences, desired roles and needs regarding education and practice tools related to personalized cancer risk assessment and other aspects of personalized cancer medicine. Based on these findings a model of care that has been developed to improve the coordination of cancer care will be presented. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed model of care, which will then be revised for later testing in a randomized clinical trial.