Shared Decision Making in Early-Stage Lung Cancer Treatment: Adapting a Previously Developed Tool for an Underserved Patient Population

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Introduction: For certain patients, early-stage lung cancer can be treated with either stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) or surgery; decision aids can assist patients and providers in this choice.

Methods: A patient education tool was previously developed at a large tertiary referral center. With statewide catchment, our center treats a high proportion of patients from minoritized racial backgrounds, with low incomes, and with limited health literacy. Through key informant and focus group interviews, we gathered perspectives regarding how to refine the tool for use in this unique care setting. The acceptability of this novel tool was measured using post-clinic interviews in accordance with the ASSESS tool and Standards for Reporting Implementation Studies. Patients receive follow-up surveys once treatment decisions have been made.

Results: After studying the implementation process of the tool, we modified it for use in our clinical space. The prototype highlights fundamental information about surgery and SBRT, including the benefits and drawbacks of each. The tool offers a place for the patient to share their treatment goals and any other additional information. In the ongoing post-clinic interview study, we have screened 64 patients and enrolled 11 based on predetermined criteria. In our initial assessment of acceptability, all patients interviewed report the decision tool is useful and provides ample information regarding each treatment option.

Conclusion: Our pilot data indicates acceptability and feasibility of adapting a patient education tool to our unique clinical setting. Additional work is ongoing to assess what effect this tool has on the decision-making process.

Figure

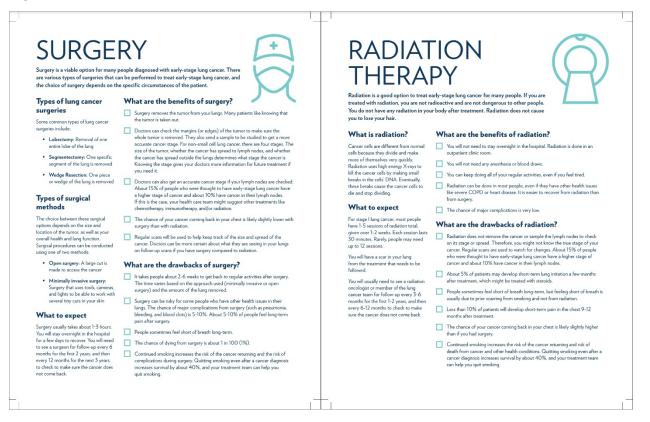


Figure 1: Shared Decision-Making Tool