Studies from 2012 Quality Care Symposium Highlight Findings in Improving Quality of Cancer Care

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ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Five additional studies to be presented at the 2012 Quality Care Symposium provide insight on how oncology practices can improve the quality of care they provide. The Symposium will take place November 30 – December 1, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego.

Note to Media: Statements from ASCO Communications Committee Member, Jyoti Patel, MD, can be cited throughout can be used in part or in their entirety.

Abstract #69
Rates of diagnostic imaging in long-term survivors of young adult malignancies

Corinne Daly, BSc, MSc
Institute of Medical Science
University of Toronto
Toronto

Oral Abstract Session A
Friday, November 30, 2012, 10:50-11:00 AM PST
Manchester Grand Hyatt, Douglas Pavilion B

“For the past several years, clinical practice guidelines have recommended decreasing the amount of surveillance in adolescent and young adult cancer survivors. Unfortunately, we are still seeing overuse of diagnostic imaging, which is associated with increased anxiety about test results and unnecessary radiation exposure. To mitigate this problem, we are educating internists, general physicians, and patients about overuse of scans.”

- Jyoti Patel, MD, ASCO Cancer Communications Committee

Abstract #73
Rational use of intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) as determined by radiation oncologists in cooperation with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA)
Many hospitals may be using intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) unnecessarily. To maximize resources for both the physician and patient, we want to make sure that IMRT is used only when needed. This study provides a model that will help radiation oncologists decide when the use of IMRT is warranted.

-Jyoti Patel, MD, ASCO Cancer Communications Committee

Abstract #285
Data-driven transformation to an oncology patient-centered medical home

John David Sprandio, MD
Consultants in Medical Oncology and Hematology
Delaware County Memorial Hospital
Drexel Hill, Penn.

There is an effort to get electronic medical records (EMRs) into every medical practice, but implementation of EMRs alone does not improve care. Having a patient-centered medical home, such as the one described in this study, would improve the quality of the EMR system as well as its use because it integrates data from specialists and tracks patient care against national guidelines.

-Jyoti Patel, MD, ASCO Cancer Communications Committee

Abstract #287
Improving cancer care by linking community cancer center physicians to disease site-specific experts

Patricia H. Hardenbergh, MD
Shaw Regional Cancer Center
Vail Valley Medical Center
Edwards, Colo.

The online technology described in this study enables community radiation oncologists to discuss cases and review radiation oncology treatment plans with a panel of experts. Those discussions are leading to changes in treatment decisions. In remote and underserved areas, being able to do a telemedicine consult instead of requiring a patient to travel to the practice for an assessment might be very helpful.

-Jyoti Patel, MD, ASCO Cancer Communications Committee

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Abstract #298
Short-term outcomes of implementation of computer-based breast cancer risk assessment program during screening mammography

Debra M. Ray, MD
Leon Hess Cancer Center and Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center at Monmouth Medical Center
Long Branch, N.J.

General Poster Session B
Saturday, December 1, 2012, 12:30-2:00 PM PST
Manchester Grand Hyatt, Douglas Pavilion C

“High risk breast cancer screening is very time-consuming and expensive, so we want to make sure that we are targeting the appropriate patients. This study offers a computer-based model for identifying women who are at high risk of developing breast cancer at the point of care – at the time of screening mammography.”

- Jyoti Patel, MD, ASCO Cancer Communications Committee

Information for Media: Quality Care Symposium Media Resources

Relevant Links on ASCO’s Cancer.Net:

- Finding a Treatment Facility
- Choosing a Doctor
- About the QOPI® Certification Program
- Guide to Breast Cancer
- Mastectomy – What to Know
- Coping With Fear of Recurrence
- Coping With Uncertainty
- Advanced Cancer Care Planning
- Palliative Care
- End-of-Life Care

ATTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY QUALITY CARE SYMPOSIUM IS REQUESTED IN ALL NEWS COVERAGE.

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Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world’s leading professional organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With more than 35,000 members,
ASCO is committed to improving cancer care through scientific meetings, educational programs and peer-reviewed journals. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation, which funds groundbreaking research and programs that make a tangible difference in the lives of people with cancer. For ASCO information and resources, visit asco.org. Patient-oriented cancer information is available at Cancer.Net.