BACKGROUND

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the most common type of primary liver cancer. HCC occurs most often in people with chronic liver diseases, such as cirrhosis caused by hepatitis B (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections. HCC is the third-leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide and the threat of HCC is expected to continue to grow in the coming years. Fortunately, effective and efficient care for patients with HCC is evolving; new drugs have been approved for HCC in recent years.

In response, the joint-venture of Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services (RMCHCS) and the Chronic Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) implemented HCC Innovations, a live virtual meeting series in collaboration with The University of New Mexico’s Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO). Project ECHO is a collaborative model of medical education and care management that empowers clinicians everywhere to provide better care to more people, right where they live. HCC Innovations featured case-based education on the diagnosis, management and treatment of HCC.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain data on the prevalence and consequences of HCC
- Demonstrate strategies to incorporate classification, diagnostic and treatment updates into clinical practice to individualize treatment strategies
- Analyze recently approved and emerging treatment options and understand how new agents are improving the standard of care for all HCV patients

METHOD

PRE-POST ASSESSMENT:
Understand learner demographics and satisfaction, as well as knowledge and competence change due to the activity.

POST-CONTROL ASSESSMENT:
Case-based follow-up assessment to determine learner performance following the activity compared to a matched non-learner control.

RESULTS

Audience: 279 total clinicians who manage patients with HCC from 20 local/regional meetings.

Learners see, on average, 4 patients per month with HCC. Based on 279 participating clinicians, over 1,100 monthly touchpoints with patients with HCC may benefit from improved evidence-based care as a result of this program.

Performance Outcomes Highlights

Using a follow-up study to assess performance, specific improvements were shown when comparing learners (n=53) to non-learners (n=53), including:

- The main factor behind the increasing incidence and mortality rates of HCC in the US between 1980 and 2020:
  - 1. Chronic hepatitis B in recent immigrants from HBV endemic regions
  - 2. Chronic alcoholic liver disease
  - 3. Fatty liver disease related to metabolic dysfunction
  - 4. Chronic hepatitis C infection
  - 5. High prevalence of unfavorable PNPLA polymorphism

Which of the following studies is required prior to starting treatment with atezolizumab and bevacizumab?

- A. Urine spot protein
- B. PET scan for metastatic workup
- C. Upper endoscopy
- D. Echocardiogram to assess cardiac function

Overall, this activity led to a performance effect size of 0.44, indicating a performance shift of 30% compared to their peers.

REFERENCES

3. https://echo.unm.edu/about-echo/