

MULTIDISCIPLINARY CANCER TEAMS AND UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES FOR METASTATIC BREAST CANCER (MBC): A LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Abstract #186



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BACKGROUND

An estimated 250,000 Americans are currently living with metastatic breast cancer. While breast cancer is a high-profile disease receiving significant public funding, patients with metastatic breast cancer face unique challenges. ACCC seeks to expand the conversation to address gaps between early and metastatic disease and improve the management of MBC in the community setting.

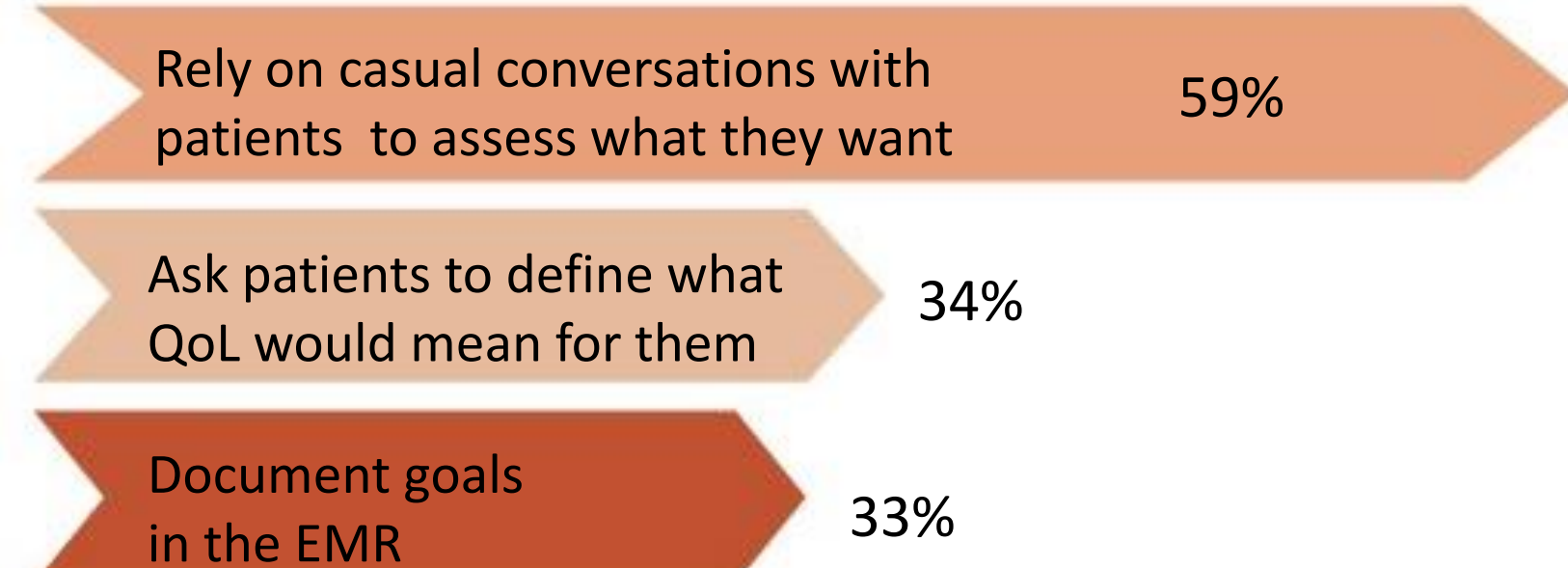
Communication challenges that cancer care teams face with MBC patients include using a tailored and thoughtful approach, balancing hope and realism, patient engagement during conversations, incorporating principles of shared decision-making, patient financial concerns, and family/caregiver involvement.

METHODS

An environmental scan was completed of nationally available resources. A survey on MBC Communication strategies was administered in a variety of oncology provider settings from December 2018 to January 2019. 107 responses were received representing 87 different institutions from 33 states.

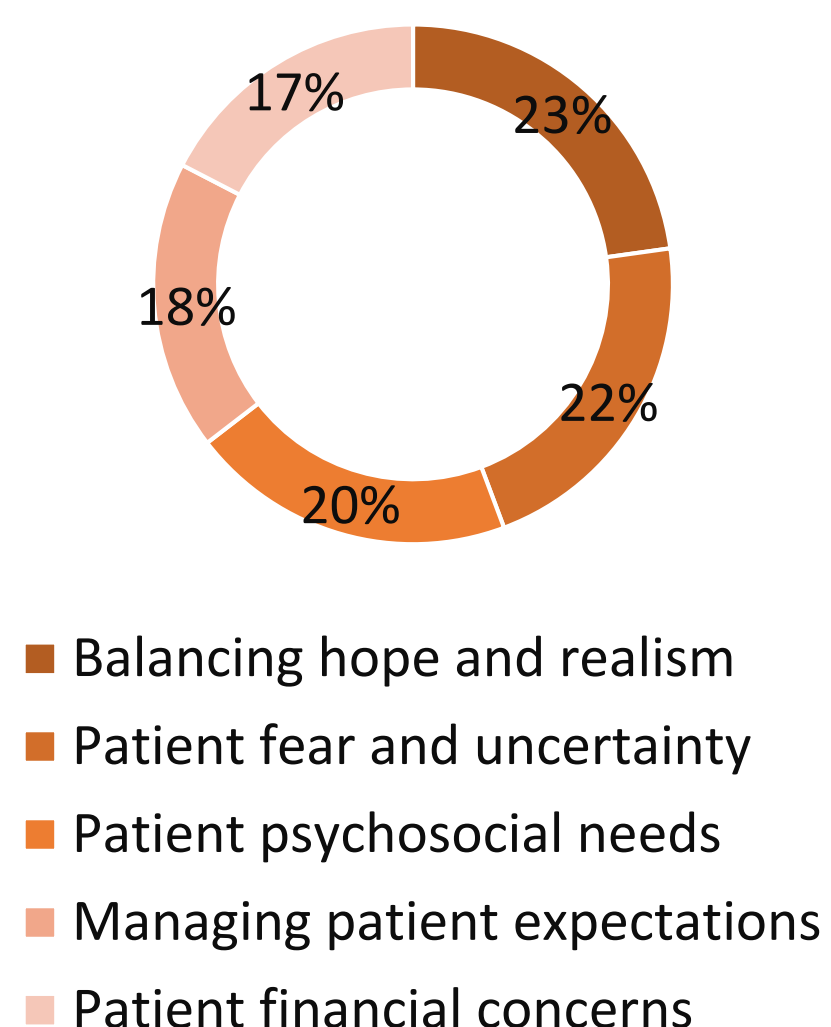
RESULTS

What resources do you use to support shared decision-making with your patients?



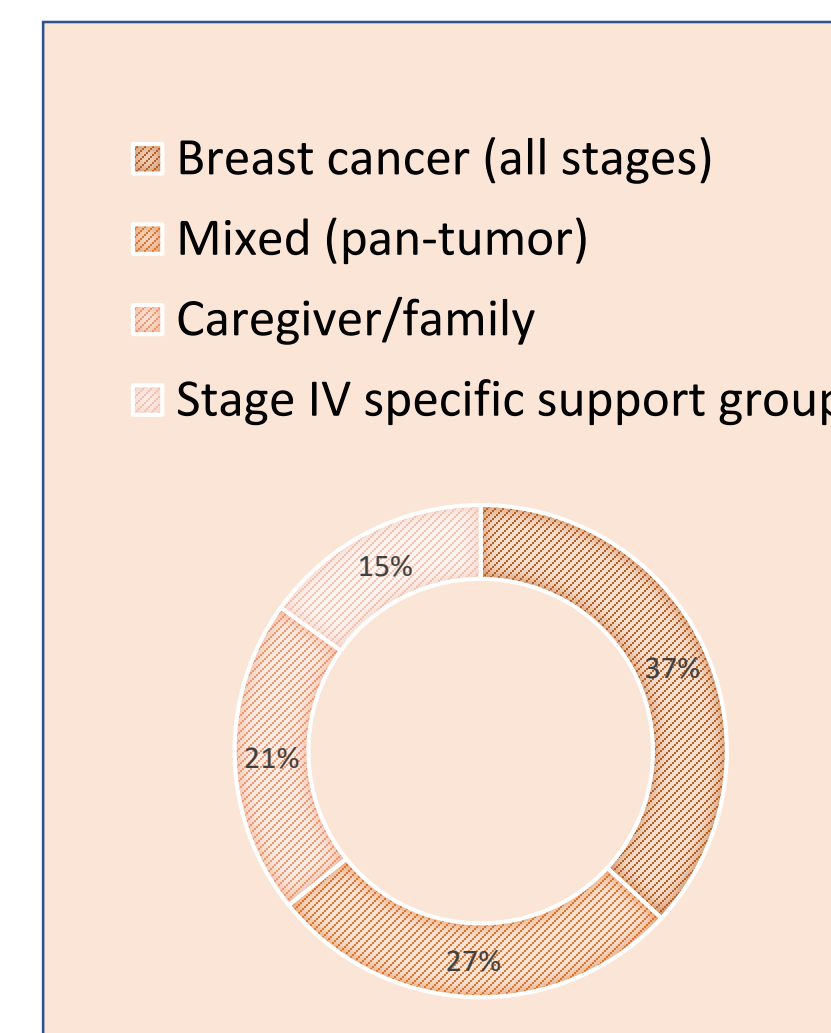
What are your biggest challenges when treating your patients with metastatic breast cancer in comparison to those with stage I - III breast cancer?

Patient psychosocial needs were identified as the top challenge for working with MBC patients vs. Stage I-III.



What support group options are offered to your metastatic breast cancer patients?

While 66% of cancer programs offer a general breast cancer support group, only 27% offer a Stage IV group.



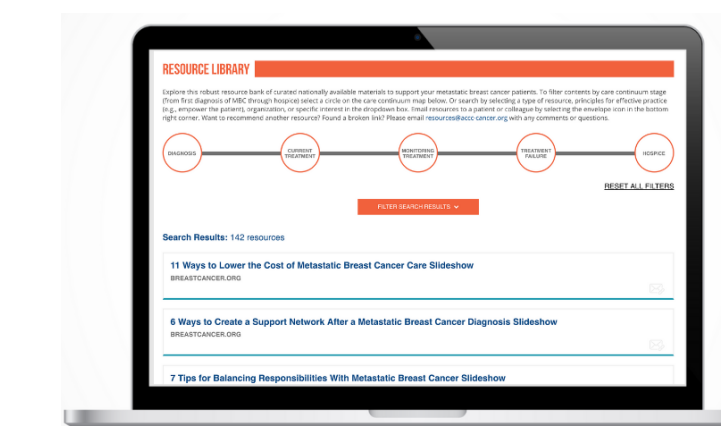
End-of-life planning discussions, processes, and actions take place with metastatic breast cancer patients in your cancer program:

1. A palliative care specialist will discuss end-of-life planning (62%)
2. We offer assistance with transition to hospice (59%)
3. Multiple members of the multidisciplinary team will routinely discuss end-of-life planning (56%)
4. We discuss and record life-sustaining treatment preferences (44%)
5. We have all patients complete advance directives (39%)

Over 150 free resources specific to MBC were categorized from diagnosis through hospice, resulting in a curated online library that clinicians can use with their patients.

The library may be filtered by selecting a type of resource, principles for effective practice (e.g., empower the patient), organization, or specific interest in the dropdown box. Resources can be emailed directly to a patient or colleague by selecting the envelope icon in the bottom right corner.

acc-cancer.org/mbcresources



CONCLUSION

This patient population should be given specialized care to address their unique diagnosis and improve communications with their care team. The ACCC Resource Library gives both low and highly resourced programs access to more supportive care tailored to metastatic breast cancer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In partnership with



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