Cancer clinical trials (CCT) awareness and attitudes in cancer survivors (Ca sury).


INTRODUCTION
- Clinical trial participation is essential for the identification of effective therapies in modern medicine. A number of studies have found that only a fraction of adults diagnosed with cancer ever enter a clinical trial.

METHODS
- A panel of 40,000 adults through Knowledge Networks (KN), based on national probability sample of U.S. adults. Panel members had indicated that they had been diagnosed with cancer at some time in the past and each of these individuals was asked to participate in an MSN®TV box and free ISP service in exchange for participating in the study. This procedure significantly reduces the digital divide problem by improving communications and enrolling adults in clinical trials.

OBJECTIVE
- Study was designed to document current levels of awareness, understanding and attitudes toward the implications of these findings for improving communications and enrolling adults in clinical trials.

RESULTS
- Awareness of cancer clinical trials:
  - Aware of cancer clinical trials: n, 1,786 (88% of the eligible sample).
  - Was highest among adults with a college degree:
    - 27% didn’t know.
  - Was similar by gender:
    - 27% didn’t know.

CHART 2
- Cancer clinical trials awareness and attitudes in cancer survivors.

CHART 3
- Participation in a CCT by Therapy Type:
  - Radiation only: n, 288
  - Drug/chemotherapy: n, 492
  - Surgery only: n, 186
  - Surgery and radiation: n, 73
  - Radiation and biology: n, 56
  - Biological therapy: n, 1,786
  - Experimental: n, 49

CHART 4
- Perception of Advantages to Enrollment in a CCT Among Survivors Who Were Aware of the Possibility of a Trial at the Time of Diagnosis, and Enrolled
  - Source of Awareness of CCT
  - Television or radio: n, 1,200
  - Print (newspaper, magazine, etc.): n, 900
  - Web or online: n, 880

CHART 5
- Perception of Disadvantages to Enrollment in a CCT Among Survivors Who Were Aware of the Possibility of a Trial at the Time of Diagnosis, but Declined
  - Source of Awareness of CCT
  - Television or radio: n, 1,200
  - Print (newspaper, magazine, etc.): n, 900
  - Web or online: n, 880

DISCUSSION
- Approximately one out of ten cancer survivors report that they were aware that they might be able to participate in a CCT at the time of their most recent diagnosis. Three quarters of the survivors became aware of the opportunity to participate in a clinical trial from a physician, generally not their primary care physician. The physician is not only the source of awareness, but also the most trusted source of information when it comes to clinical trial consideration (data not shown). No other source of information compares to the physician.

REFERENCES

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CONCLUSIONS
- There is a growing demand for patient enrollment in CCT studies and it is important that adequate enrollment be arranged to assure the advancement of medical science. Today’s rate of patient enrollment and enrollment is inadequate to maintain the growth of evidence-based medicine.
- Assessing each issue, as awareness, participation, and accrual into a CCT must adjust for key demographics, disease type, and other clinical factors.
- The CCT experience is valued and appreciated by cancer survivors as they move the field forward.
- The physician is critical in encouraging the patient to participate in CCT.