

POSTER #10

Resource Development in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery: Evaluation of an Educational Tool for Family Physicians

Mariana Colussi-Pelaez¹, Dr. Albino Chiodo², Dr. Sophie Huang³, Dr. Jolie Ringash³, Dr. Heather Sampson⁴

¹University College Cork,

²Michael Garron Hospital & University of Toronto,

³Princess Margaret Hospital, ⁴Wilson Centre

mariana9cp@gmail.com

Background: HPV-induced oropharyngeal carcinoma is a growing epidemic that comes with several challenges. There are several barriers that contribute to delays in diagnosis including the lack of a screening program and the misleading clinical presentation of patients. Diagnostic delays are common (3-6 months) and a delay of up to 2 months can lead to a significant increase in morbidity and mortality for patients. There is a lack of knowledge and increasing need for educational tools to aid family physicians in diagnosing complex new malignancies such as HPV oropharyngeal carcinoma.

Objective: To educate family physicians about HPV oropharyngeal carcinoma and diminish the incidence of diagnostic delays to improve patient outcomes.

Methods: An educational improvement initiative, which receives feedback from key stakeholders in the medical field was implemented. A slide deck titled “HPV Oropharyngeal Carcinoma and the Management of a Neck Mass” was created. First, it was evaluated via survey by a group of otolaryngologists, radiation oncologists, nurses, medical students, and family physicians (n=20) to optimize its content and style. Subsequently, the slides were evaluated via survey by the target audience; family physicians (n=30). Knowledge translation was also examined with a pre- and post-slide deck evaluation quiz.

Implications: There are gaps in knowledge amongst family physicians regarding many otolaryngologic topics, importantly head and neck oncology. This educational tool will expose family physicians to the HPV oropharyngeal cancer epidemic, its challenges, and intricacies. The future objective is to implement this educational resource into a Continuing Medical Education program for family physicians and residents.