

Computerized Assessment of Cancer Symptoms

Principal Investigator: Janet S. Carpenter, PhD, RN

Dates of Support: 2004-2006

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health

Abstract

Statement of Problem: Cancer patients frequently experience disease- and treatment-related symptoms that can dramatically lower quality of life. Despite the availability of proven interventions, numerous reports indicate symptoms are poorly controlled for many patients. Although numerous barriers to symptom management exist, one of the most critical is the lack of a systematic and standardized symptom assessment. Computerized (i.e., automated) assessment of cancer symptoms offers a means to overcome this barrier. By automating the administration and scoring of previously validated symptom measures, computerized symptom assessment can be used to generate brief but accurate summary reports that can be used during office visits to facilitate patient-provider communication and improve symptom assessment and management.

Broad Objective: The proposed feasibility study will develop and test a computerized assessment of oncology symptoms (CAS) system.

Specific Aims: To develop and evaluate the feasibility of a computerized assessment of pain, fatigue, sleep, distress, depression and anxiety in three outpatient cancer clinics by examining participation rate, completion rate, completion time, patient and provider satisfaction with the CAS system.

Design and Methods: During scheduled visits, 90 outpatients at a cancer center will complete symptom measures while waiting to meet with their oncologist, after which a summary report will be generated and presented to the patient and the patient's oncologist for use during the office visit. Feasibility and satisfaction data will be collected from patients during completion of the symptom assessment at the doctor's office, 2 to 3 days after the office visit via telephone and from providers at the end of the data collection period.

Performance Site(s)

Indiana University School of Nursing and Indiana University Cancer Center
Indianapolis, Indiana

Key Personnel:

Janet S. Carpenter, PhD, RN	IU School of Nursing	Principal Investigator
Susan M. Rawl, PhD	IU School of Nursing	Co-Investigator
Diane Von Ah, PhD, RN	IU School of Nursing	Co-Investigator
David A. Potter, MD, PhD	IU School of Medicine	Co-Investigator
Daniel Rushing, MD	IU School of Medicine	Co-Investigator
Christopher Sweeney, MD	IU School of Medicine	Co-Investigator
Paul Helft, MD	IU School of Medicine	Co-Investigator
Shelley Johns, PsyD	IU School of Medicine	Co-Investigator
Caroline Doebbeling, MD	IU School of Medicine	Co-Investigator
Patrick Monahan, PhD	IU School of Medicine	Co-Investigator
R. Brian Giesler, PhD	Butler University	Consultant