

Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
SECURE THE FUTURE[®]
Care and support for Communities Affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa



HEALTH PROVIDERS' PERSPECTIVES ON THE BARRIERS AND PRIORITIES TO LUNG CANCER
PATIENT ACCESS, DIAGNOSIS, REFERRAL AND TREATMENT IN KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH
AFRICA.

MULTINATIONAL LUNG CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM:
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
MS. BUHLE LUBUZO



Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
**Specialty Care for
Vulnerable Populations**
Care Collaborations & Patient Support

Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

Bridging Cancer Care[™]
Community Awareness, Prevention and Care

Project Goal and Overview

- The study sought out to investigate barriers that impede quality care coordination for patients with lung cancer from the health providers perspective.
- Thereafter we prioritized those barriers in aims to provide a narrative on how these barriers influence lung cancer care in the current health systems and policies in South Africa.
- This is anticipated to inform the development and implementation of a targeted policy to improve lung cancer care.
- The results of this study can also be used to inform decision makers on how to best allocate available resources or services.

Project progress to date

- Study has been completed
- Graduated for Masters in Medical Science with Cum Laude
- Three manuscripts have been submitted to three journals and are under review.
- Results were presented to the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation (BMSF), the funders, all partners (Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and ESwatini) and the University of KwaZulu- Natal, college of health science discipline.
- A meeting of all stakeholders will be organized where the results will be presented and discussed.
- The results will be presented at regional and international conferences, either through posters or oral presentations.

Emerging Themes

- The high burden of disease was attributed to, among other things,
 - ✓ limited lung cancer awareness
 - ✓ disempowered patients to improve their own health due to factors such as socio-economic status
 - ✓ under-resourced facilities, resulting in weak or ineffective healthcare systems
 - ✓ lack of inter- sectoral alliance
 - ✓ Human resource shortage adding to the lack of intra-sectoral collaboration.
- We found that lung cancer is usually diagnosed when the cancer is at an advanced stage, thereby making treatment, where available, largely ineffective. Even then, there is another waiting period for treatment to be initiated, because of lack of resources, be it human or equipment related.

Table 1: Top Priority Issues as Identified by NGT Session of Healthcare Providers (Phase 2&3)

Nominal
Group
Discussion:
Key Results

KEY ISSUES	RESPONDENT 1	RESPONDENT 2	RESPONDENT 3	RESPONDENT 4	RESPONDENT 5	RESPONDENT 6	RESPONDENT 7	POINTS	RANKING
A- Specialised Resources	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	26	1st
B- Screening Services		4		2				6	-
C- Awareness	2	1	2		4	2	3	14	2nd
D- Referral Guidelines	3		3	3	2	1		12	3rd
E- Education & Training	1	2		1		3		7	4th
F- Co-ordinated Care Plan			1		1		2	4	-
G- Financial Constraints							1	1	-

Conclusion

- The barriers warrant immediate action in order to mitigate the suffering that lung cancer inflicts to the health of South Africans currently, and in the near future.
- Addressing these issues could be particularly useful to improving support for the important work of these specialists who are providing oncology services in KZN.
- This is anticipated to inform the development and implementation of a targeted policy to improve lung cancer care.
- The results of this study can also be used to inform decision makers on how to best allocate available resources or services.

Conclusion

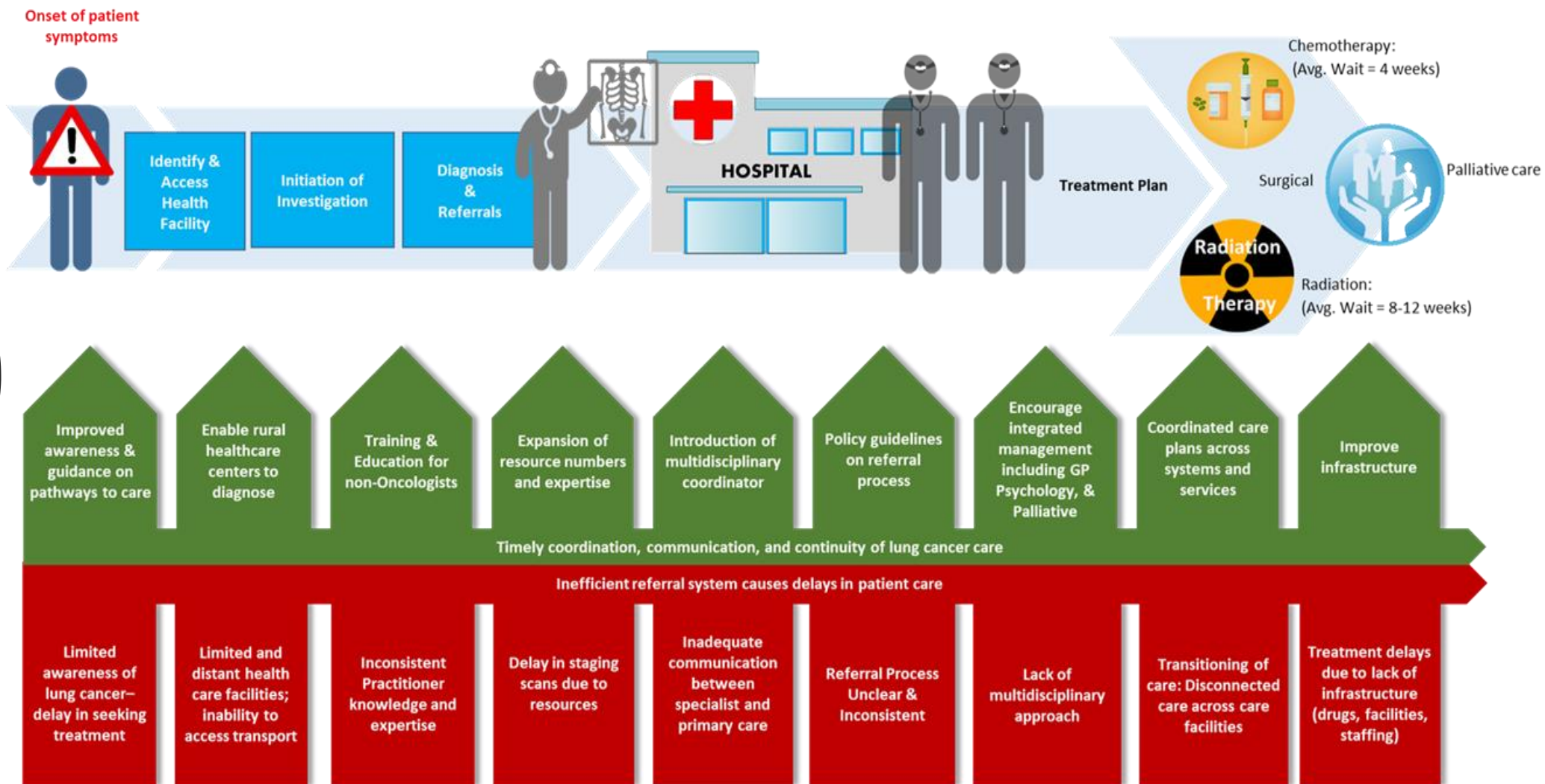
We propose the following to policy makers and key stakeholders:

- Programmatic: Assessment and evaluation of healthcare systems, policies, and strategies; paying attention to addressing barriers relating to access to lung cancer care, and effective patient diagnosis.
- Research: Collaborative efforts to raise public awareness for both healthcare providers, patients and general public on lung cancer symptoms and means of gaining access to lung cancer care resources and facilities.
- Policy Makers: Several areas within the lung cancer care continuum need to be addressed or improved in KZN. Some of the priorities identified in this study require financial resources, which were also listed as an important issue affecting lung cancer management in KZN.



BACK UP SLIDES

Health Providers Perspectives on Barriers & Priorities to Lung Cancer Care



Key Results to Date

Figure 2: Summary of key findings

Discussion

- The employed methodology yielded an extensive list of barriers and the list was then analyzed and prioritized further, and the result was a sub-set of the most prevalent of these barriers.
- Among them, issues relating to access and diagnosis ranked highest in the priorities. Supported by a number of studies, the inadequacy of systems that support access to healthcare services gives aid to the rising numbers of lung cancer fatalities in South Africa.
- This can be attributed largely to socio-economic status— where people living in rural areas face an enormous barrier to timely and intensive care support.
- This is consistent with the manner in which South African health systems is configured, whereby cancer diagnostic services are only offered at high level of care.
- Patients are expected to initiate their health-seeking from the primary healthcare clinics before progressing to subsequent levels.

Discussion

- The bottom part of the pyramid refers to home-based care. Individuals take care of their own health through the support of community caregivers for preventative and promotive health and for disease screening and monitoring.
- Following are the primary healthcare clinics that are the first line of access for people needing healthcare services.
- The quality of healthcare provided at this level is low and leads to extended times to receiving specialized patient care available at tertiary and quaternary facilities.
- These bottlenecks often result in deaths before patients' access to academic hospitals where advanced diagnostic procedures and treatments are provided.
- In theory, this referral pathway ensures that patients receive care appropriate to their needs in the most cost-effective way.
- However, the down side to it may be the delay in getting cancer patients diagnosed and treated timeously.