Adult clinical trial participation across the RCN: how do we compare to the rest of Canada?

RCN Clinical Trials Managers and RCN Quality Council

**INTRODUCTION**

- Patient participation and access to clinical trials is a key measure of the delivery of quality cancer care.
- Patients treated in cancer centres with active clinical trial programs tend to have improved outcomes (e.g., survival and quality of life) compared to those treated at institutions without clinical trials.
- Barriers to clinical trial accrual are multifactorial, however, one of the main reasons given by patients for not taking part in a clinical trial is that they didn’t know the studies were an option for them.
- To illustrate this, 70% of Americans state they would be willing to participate have reasons given by patients for not taking part in a clinical trial is that clinical trials.
- Improved coordination, dedicated resources, and collaboration between sites are essential to the success of clinical research activities across the RCN.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>Map the clinical research landscape across the RCN</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Better understanding of clinical research activities. Needed for website development and metrics collection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Create a RCN clinical trials website listing all trials</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Decision-making tool for treatment on trials, available to physicians AND patients. Provides patients with greater treatment options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>Publish the first public metrics report on enrollment to trials</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Provides a baseline to track (potentially urgent) across the McGill academic centres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>Raise clinical trial awareness</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Provides greater options for treatment.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**METHODS**

Metrics on clinical trial accrual are presented as an enrollment ratio. An enrollment ratio can be interpreted as the percentage of patients enrolled on a clinical trial in a given year.

\[
\text{Enrollment ratio} = \frac{\text{# new accruals}}{\text{# new incident cases}} \times \text{Canadian average} \times \text{year} \times \text{hospital.}
\]

**RESULTS**

Overall, the RCN enrollment ratios are lower than the Canadian average, which is higher than the ASCO benchmark of 10.1%.

**DISCUSSION**

- There is no consensus on how best to report clinical trial metrics in the literature.
- Some points to consider include:
  - The inclusion of non-interventional trials or interventional trials focused on side effects of cancer/treatments.
  - The most appropriate denominator for this metric (use new incident cases), but one could also:
    - Include gnapped/progressed patients?
  - Remove diagnoses where no clinical trials exist?

Our methods were chosen to match clinical trial metrics across Canada as reported by CPAC (Canadian Partnership Against Cancer).2

- Ultimately, consistency in our data collection and inter-hospital comparisons will provide the most useful benchmark moving forward.

**FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

1. Increase online presence and ease of searching clinical trials

We are looking into different methods of making our clinical trials lists searchable to promote ease of use.

2. Increase awareness and education around clinical trials

- Patient-geared educational pamphlet regarding clinical trials to be made available in different hospital areas and waiting rooms (in progress)
- Patient-geared educational pamphlet regarding clinical trials
- Pin (shown on the right) already in use at the 3 partner hospitals. Two version of the pin are available. “Ask me about clinical trials” for support staff.

3. Increase clinical trials accrual via systematic pre-screening

- BR2, an RCN led systematic pre-screening program for breast cancer patients has begun in late 2017.
- The inclusion of non-interventional trials or interventional trials focused on side effects of cancer/treatments.

**REFERENCES/FOOTNOTES**

3. Canadian averages for G1 only include colorectal cases.