

Abstract

Background: Gynecology-specific cancers are often diagnosed at a late stage and carry a poor prognosis. Distressing symptoms are not uncommon. A stigma against palliative care exists in this patient population. Patients need information and access to available palliative care, resources, and programs.

Objectives: To implement an evidence-based palliative care screening tool to improve access to supportive services for gynecology oncology patients in a low socioeconomic clinic setting.

Methods: The Pallia-10 is a 10-question international French palliative care screening tool selected for ease of use and provider efficiency. Interventions were recommended based on a score of 3 or 5 of 10. Staff education regarding palliative care and goals of care discussions were completed before project initiation.

Findings: Shared decision-making occurred with additional screening regarding potential clinical outcomes. This discussion allowed patients to consider options. Some chose to return home to their country of origin once they understood that life expectancy was limited.

Conclusion: The use of the Pallia 10 is effective for Gynecologic oncology patients in a diverse, low socioeconomic setting with limited resources. Further consideration for the implementation of this tool is recommended in oncology clinics. Transitioning to an electronic medical record version is under consideration for ease of use.