



SYMPTOM EXPERIENCE OF PATIENTS WITH CANCER PRESENTING TO AN ACADEMIC OUTPATIENT PALLIATIVE / SUPPORTIVE CARE CLINIC

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Introduction

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) launched one of the first comprehensive PC programs in the U.S. in an area of the country with the lowest PC access. Just as other existing PC program all around the world cancer patients are a great majority of UAB outpatient PC clinic patients since program inception.

UAB Palliative Care Program -Historical Perspective

1998	PC program initiated primarily as outpatient consultation clinic co-located in specialty oncology clinic
2000	PC fellowship program begun
2002	In-patient consultation service begins with Board certified providers
2005	12 bed inpatient pure Palliative and Comfort Care unit (PCCU) opens at UAB
2012	Opened the Supportive Care and Survivorship Clinic
2014	Hospice general inpatient program (GIP) begins at UAB

Study Aim

To examine characteristics of cancer patients who were seen at UAB outpatient PC clinic.

Methods

- Retrospective and cross-sectional study.
- We conducted retrospective analyses on databases which consist of patients who were seen by UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care (CPSC) outpatient program from January 2006 to March 2016.

238 cancer patient seen in outpatient clinic (Jan 2006 & Mar 2016).

- Patient demographics
- Medical characteristics
- M. D. Anderson Symptom Inventory (MDASI)
- Brief pain Inventory (BPI)
- Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9)

Data Analysis

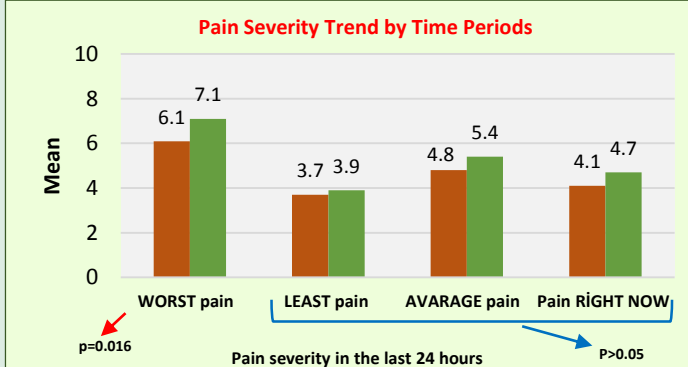
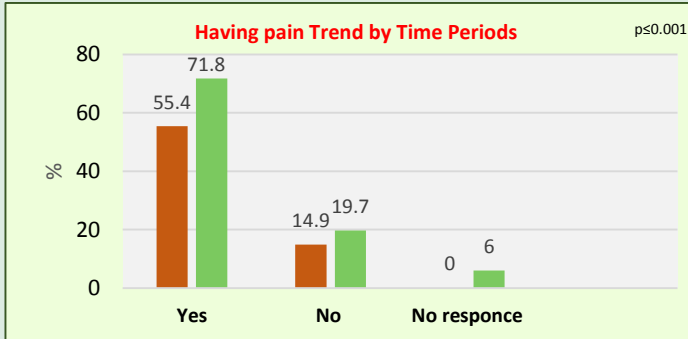
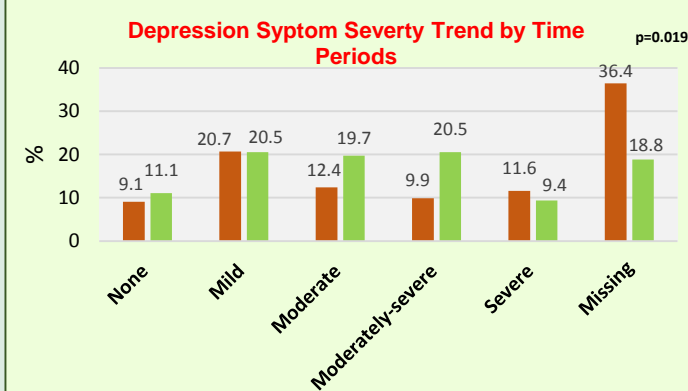
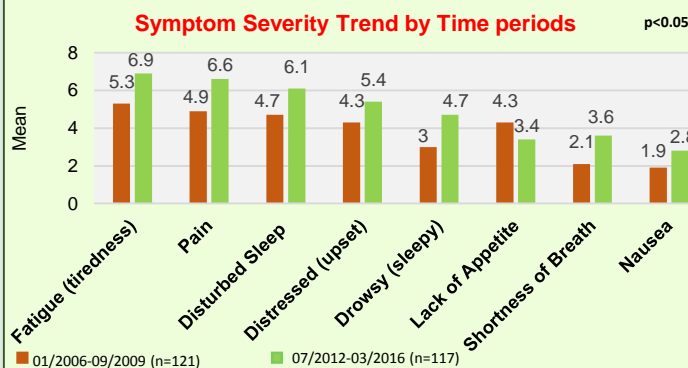
- De-identified data were exported into Excel, Validation checks were undertaken to ensure that all responses were within a valid range.
- All analyses in SPSS, version 21.00 (Chicago, IL.).
- The sample was split to examine the temporal trends for the early vs late program history
 - 1st period consist of 45 months and 2nd period consist of 45 months
- Continuous variables were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD), and categorical variables were expressed as numbers and percentages.
- Not normally distributed data were analyzed by Mann-Whitney U test., Pearson chi-square test was performed to analyze differences among categorical variables. The level of significance (p-value) was 0.05 for all comparisons.

Results

Table 1. Patient' Characteristics

	Total (n=238)	01/2006-09/2009 (n=121)	07/2012-03/2016 (n=117)	p
Characteristics	n (%) or Mean ± SD			
Age (years)	52.2±13.0	52.9±13.6	51.4±12.3	0.388
(min= 18; max: 97)				
Gender				
Female	152 (63.9)	88 (72.7)	94 (56.6)	0.004
Ethnicity				
White	183 (76.9)	97 (80.2)	86 (73.5)	0.031
Black	48 (20.2)	18 (14.9)	30 (25.6)	
Hispanic	1 (.4)	-	1 (0.9)	
Other	4 (1.3)	4 (3.3)	-	
Unknown	4 (1.3)	2 (1.7)	-	

Results



Conclusions

The UAB PC outpatient clinic has demonstrated robust growth in since inception, served a substantial number of racially diverse outpatients who present with mores severe symptoms than patient in the earlier time period.

References

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