Feasibility of Clinical Nurse-Initiated Geriatric Assessments in Breast Medical Oncology Clinic: A Pilot Program

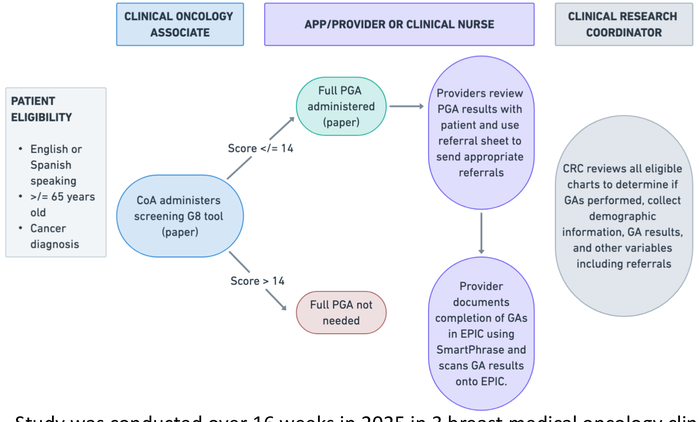
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BACKGROUND

- The incidence of cancer in older adults is substantially rising, and oncologists must be prepared to care for this growing vulnerable population.[1]
- Geriatric assessment (GA)-guided management (GAM) reduces treatment toxicity and improves quality of life in older patients with cancer, leading to its inclusion in national guidelines.[2]
- However, GA adoption by oncologists remains low, especially in racial and ethnic minority populations.[3]
- We conducted a pilot program implementing clinical nurse-administered GAs in older adults with breast cancer, with the goal of improving GA completion, particularly among Spanish-speaking patients by using Spanish-translated GAs.

METHODS



- Study was conducted over 16 weeks in 2025 in 3 breast medical oncology clinics.
- **Baseline** (first 8 weeks): captured GA completion rates by APPs/oncologists.
- **Nurse intervention** (second 8 weeks): a clinical nurse administered the GAs.
- **GAs utilized**: G8 Geriatric Screening tool and ASCO's comprehensive Practical Geriatric Assessment (PGA); PGA was translated into Spanish for this study.
- Oncologist (baseline) or clinical nurse (intervention) reviewed results of the GAs, recommended referrals and treatment modifications with the patient.
- Chi-Squared test of independence was used to determine differences in rates of G8 and PGA completion between baseline and nurse intervention groups.
- Feasibility of the intervention was measured by the number of geriatric vulnerabilities identified, and referrals triggered.

To our knowledge, this is the first study designed to evaluate feasibility of a clinical nurse intervention to improve GA completion in breast oncology patients, and the first to utilize a Spanish translation of ASCO's PGA to facilitate delivery in racial/ethnic minority populations.

- The high baseline G8 and PGA completion rates suggest that screening and assessment of geriatric vulnerabilities in high-risk oncology patients are feasible when they are effectively integrated into existing clinical workflow and have garnered staff and provider buy-in.
- There were no differences in PGA completion rates with the nurse intervention. This may be due to the small sample size and high baseline PGA rates. Further studies in larger populations are needed.

RESULTS

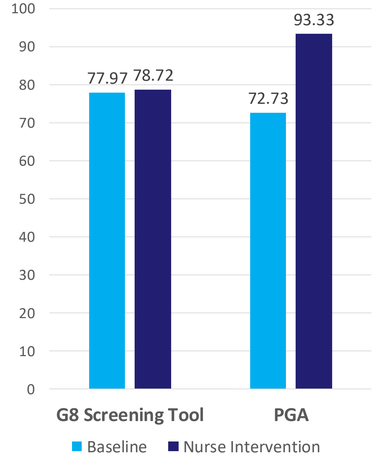


Figure 1. GA Completion Rates at Baseline and Nurse Intervention

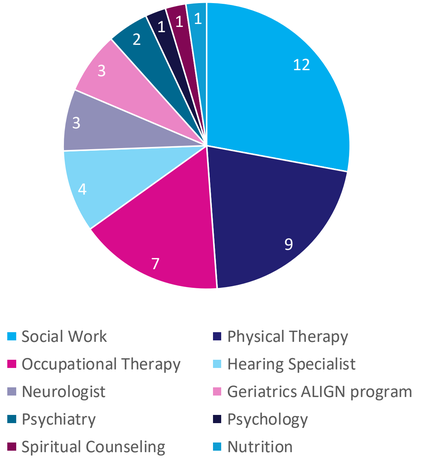


Figure 2. Referrals Triggered by PGA in Overall Population

There were no significant differences in rates of screening G8 (77.97% [N=46/59] vs 78.72% [N=37/47], p=0.93) and PGA (72.73% [N=16/22] vs 93.33 [N=14/15], p=0.12) from baseline to nurse intervention phase. Figure 2 shows the referrals triggered in the overall population; there were no differences in the number of referrals triggered with the nurse intervention (not shown here).

RESULTS

Table 1. Baseline Patient Characteristics

Patient Characteristics	Overall Population (N=106)	Baseline (N=59)	Nurse Intervention (N=47)	p-value
Median Age, years (range)	73 (65-94)	74 (65-94)	72 (65-94)	0.08
Race, N (%)				0.99
White	46.2% (49)	47.5% (28)	44.7% (21)	
Black	27.3% (29)	27.1% (16)	27.7% (13)	
Asian or Pacific Islander	5.7% (6)	5.1% (3)	6.3% (3)	
Other/Unknown	20.8% (22)	20.3% (12)	21.2% (10)	
Ethnicity, N (%)				0.49
Hispanic	18.9% (20)	15.3% (9)	23.4% (11)	
Non-Hispanic	72.6% (77)	74.6% (44)	70.2% (33)	
Unknown	8.5% (9)	10.2% (6)	6.3% (3)	
Language Spoken, N (%)				0.18
English	87.8% (93)	91.5% (54)	83.0% (39)	
Spanish	12.3% (13)	8.5% (5)	17% (8)	
ECOG Performance Status, N (%)				0.70
0	74.5% (79)	71.2% (42)	78.7% (37)	
1	12.3% (13)	11.9% (7)	12.8% (6)	
2	2.8% (3)	3.4% (2)	2.1% (1)	
3	1.9% (2)	1.7% (1)	2.1% (1)	
Unknown	8.5% (9)	11.9% (7)	4.3% (2)	

Table 2. Geriatric Vulnerabilities Identified by PGA in > 20% of Patients

Type of Impairment	Overall Population (N=30)	Baseline (N=16)	Nurse Intervention (N=14)	p-value
Physical	86.7% (26)	75% (12)	100% (14)	0.26
Comorbidity	66.7% (20)	62.5% (10)	71.4% (10)	0.57
Functional	73.3% (22)	62.5% (10)	85.7% (12)	0.28
Social Support	56.7% (17)	56.3% (9)	57.1% (8)	0.81
Vision	36.7% (11)	31.3% (5)	42.9% (6)	0.47
Hearing	33.3% (10)	37.5% (6)	28.6% (4)	0.77
Cognitive	23.3% (7)	12.5% (2)	35.7% (5)	0.14
Psychological	23.3% (7)	12.5% (2)	35.7% (5)	0.14

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