

Perceived Barriers Affecting Cancer Patient's Care at Jefferson Einstein

Marshall Rosenberg, DO¹ , Dhaval Patel, MD² , John Charles Leighton, MD² and Claudia M. Dourado, MD²
Department of Internal Medicine Lankenau Medical Center¹ , Department of Hematology and Oncology Jefferson Einstein ²



Introduction

Jefferson Einstein Hospital is a safety-net hospital serving a diverse and primarily disadvantaged community in North Philadelphia. According to the National Cancer Institute’s Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (NCI-CRCHD), people from low socioeconomic backgrounds and specific demographics often bear a more significant disease burden than the general U.S. population. Certain population groups experience cancer disparities due to their likelihood of encountering obstacles or barriers in getting health care.

This study aims to identify critical barriers hindering receipt of quality cancer care to the population that this hospital is serving.

Methods

Barriers to patients' access to cancer care were defined through literature review and expert consensus. At Jefferson Einstein Hospital, these barriers were assessed through a survey containing fixed-choice items to elicit barriers to accessing cancer care in newly diagnosed cancer patients receiving treatment at the hospital.

Information on these barriers were prospectively collected during survey administration and analyzed through descriptive statistics. The frequency of specific barriers among the five categories were calculated, and subjects classified according to the presence of barriers, or the number of barriers.

Results

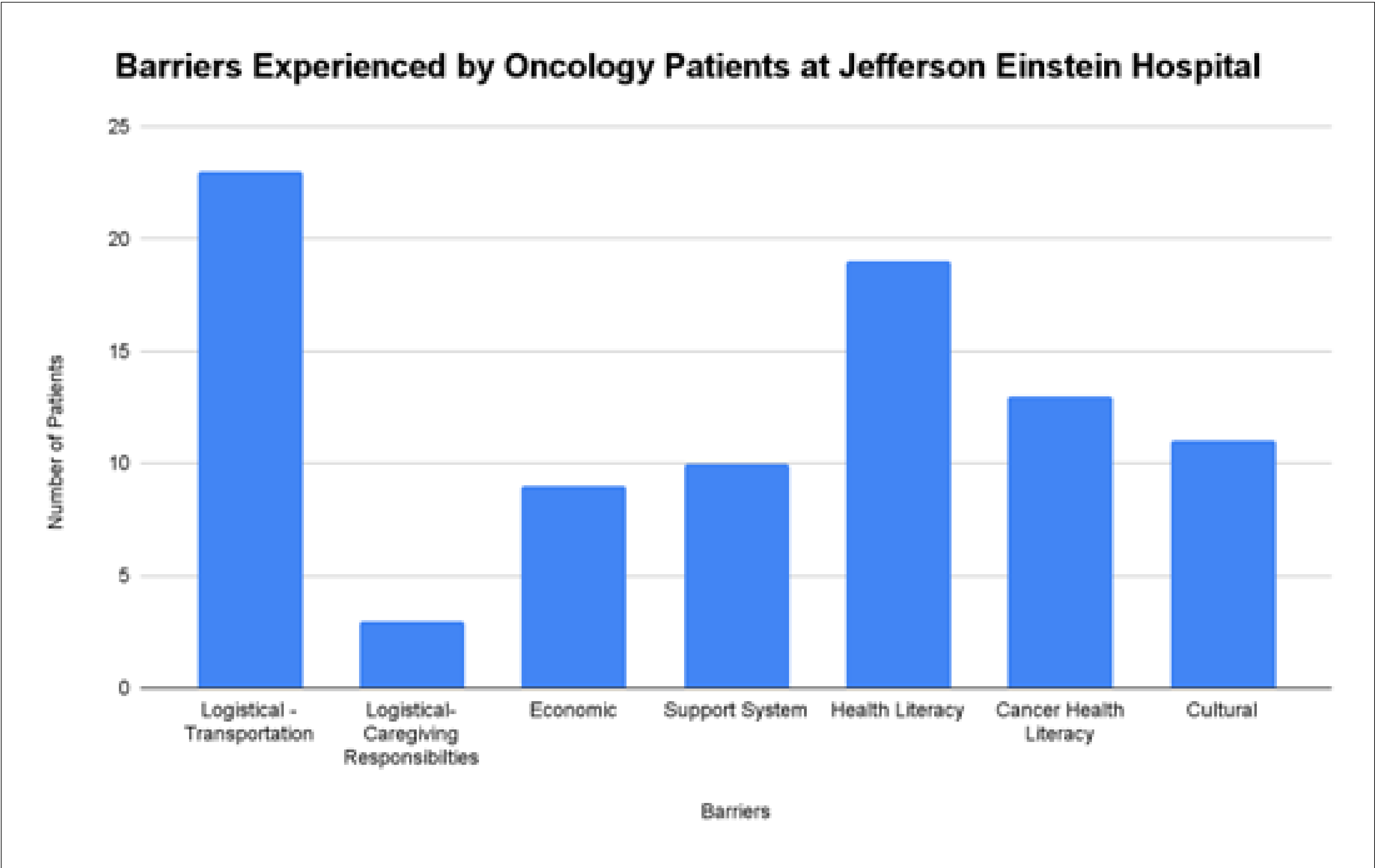


Figure 1. Various barriers identified in cancer patients presenting to Jefferson Einstein.

Conclusion

Cancer patients at Jefferson Einstein Hospital exhibited multiple barriers to accessing quality cancer care. Transportation issues as well as health literacy were the two most often cited barriers. This work should direct future efforts to utilize patient input to provide insights into these barriers and establish facilitators of access to cancer care.

References available on request.