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NR.210. 889 8101: Project Evaluation and Dissemination: Abstract

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Abstract

**Background and Purpose:** Anal cancer cases and deaths have been increasing steadily in the nation since 2001. Variation of anal cancer screening recommendations leads to poorer patient outcomes. Due to a lack of uniform screening guidelines and variations among provider knowledge and screening practices, anal cancer is most often found in the later stages when it is more difficult and more expensive to treat. As morbidity and mortality of anal cancer is persistently on the rise, it is imperative to implement effective screening for early detection. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to implement a provider-based education program to increase anal cancer screening in high-risk patients at a gastroenterology center.

**Methods:** The project utilized a one group pre- and post-survey design comparing provider knowledge, attitudes, and practices before and after the intervention. The intervention was a provider education program. Pre- and post-intervention surveys were administered to assess provider knowledge, attitudes, and practices of anal cancer screening. The survey was a validated data extraction tool adapted to reflect anal cancer screening criteria.

**Results:** A total of 11 providers were recruited from a single gastroenterology center. All 11 providers completed the education session and participated in the pre- and post-survey assessments. Post-intervention, there was a significant increase in provider knowledge and the number of screenings of patients at high-risk for anal cancer.

**Conclusions:** Findings suggest the implementation of a provider education program is an effective strategy to increase anal cancer screening in high-risk patients. Further studies to understand the barriers to implementing effective screening programs, as well as provider education and engagement, are needed to promote anal cancer screening nationwide.

**Key Words:** Anal Cancer; Anal Neoplasm; Cancer Screening; Early Detection of Cancer; Provider Education