

POSTER ABSTRACTS

10th Annual HMO Research Network Conference

May 3-5, 2004 Dearborn, MI

Information Technology 19

Electronic Data Collection from Patients on Breast Cancer Risk Factor Information in a Mammography Setting

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Background: Information on breast cancer risk factors is important to identifying high-risk groups who may be eligible for prevention activities, but the data collection process is time consuming. Data collection currently occurs at Group Health Cooperative (GHC) using a paper survey at the time of the mammogram. The project goal was to evaluate patient acceptance and feasibility of using an electronic questionnaire. We hoped to reduce the repetitive nature of the questionnaire by prepopulating some answers, reduce the amount of time needed to complete the questionnaire, and improve the accuracy of data collected.

Methods: The HIPAA compliant survey software was developed on a Fujitsu Tablet PC and incorporated prepopulated answers from each woman's previous survey. We piloted the prototype in one GHC clinic over a 3-month period. 160 women were randomized to use the electronic survey (N=86) or the paper survey (N=74 controls) and complete an evaluation form. We compared the distribution of Likert scale responses between the intervention and control groups, and between age groups (<60 vs. >60 years old).

Results: Overall, 90% of women in the intervention group preferred using the tablet compared to the paper questionnaire. Preference for the Tablet did not differ by age; however, women >60 years did not find the Tablet as easy to use as women <60 years. Every woman liked seeing her prepopulated answers; 97% stated that their prepopulated answers were accurate. The majority (65%) did not think that the Tablet was very easy to carry throughout their appointment.

Conclusions: Electronic questionnaires are feasible to use in a mammography setting and are preferred by nearly all women, even older women. Although the Tablet PC was feasible to use as a prototype, this configuration may not be suitable for full deployment in a setting where patient mobility and high volumes are necessary. Clinics elsewhere may have different technology requirements thus requiring further evaluation of different hardware and software options.