

## POSTER ABSTRACTS

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### Cancer 03

#### Linking HMO and SEER Registry Data to Create a Tumor Registry

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**Background:** Kaiser Permanente Georgia is a member of the Cancer Research Network (CRN), a group of 11 HMOs collaborating to increase the effectiveness of preventive, curative, and supportive interventions for major cancers. Active participation in CRN projects requires that each HMO have a valid, current tumor registry. Developing and managing a tumor registry can be accomplished through chart review, however, this is a costly and time consuming approach. Kaiser Permanente Georgia (KPG) recently collaborated with the Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry (GCCR) to develop and evaluate an automated procedure to 1) create an initial tumor registry and 2) plan for future updates.

**Methods:** All potential and presumed malignant cancers from 1995-2003 were initially identified by ICD9-CM code from KPG computerized databases. Data were aggregated to unique record by enrollee and topographic site. The initial cancer evidence for a new enrollee-site was retained and submitted to the GCCR. The GCCR linked the data and provided the matching cancers to KPG along with the data in the variables found in the SEER public use database.

**Results:** KPG submitted 28,622 cancers that matched to 6,027 cancers (5,693 persons) in the GCCR database. Further analysis confirmed that the linkage had produced a database containing 80-90% of the malignant cancers. For example, when compared to an internal health plan database of reportable breast cancers from 2001-2003, 81% of the cancers were found in the GCCR data. This project also provided the GCCR with previously unreported cancers that were explored through chart review.

**Conclusions:** Health plans located in cities where cancer reporting is mandated by the state are at an advantage to obtain this information through a linkage with the state cancer registry. A data linkage project between a health plan and a state registry has mutual benefits of providing a rich database that can be used by the research and operations departments for reporting on cancer prevalence and incidence as well as providing the state cancer registry with previously unreported cancers.