



Using Interprofessional Education as a Tool for Understanding Roles and Responsibilities of Radiation Therapist and Physical Therapist in the Care of Patients with Breast Cancer

Leslie M. Smith, PT, DPT, Julie Hollenbeck, M.Ed., R.T.

CONTACT: Leslie M. Smith llacy@umich.edu



BACKGROUND/ RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women
- Knowing other health care providers roles and responsibilities may increase effective team functioning and quality patient care.
- Radiation therapists and physical therapist are commonly referred to care for breast cancer patients.
- Interprofessional educational experiences have shown that, sharing expertise and clear case discussions can foster professional growth and improve patient care.

GOAL AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the interprofessional education experience was to bring together healthcare students in radiation therapy and physical therapy programs to collaborate as an interprofessional team to discuss the care and management of patients with breast cancer and to enhance their understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities in that care.

METHODOLOGY & METHODS

- Physical therapy (n=59), and radiation therapy students (n=10) participated in an interprofessional education (IPE) case review.
- This IPE case review included a pre-IPE test, a face to face case based activity and a post-IPE test.
- Surveys included demographic information and 6 questions on IPEC competency for Roles and Responsibilities and 14 Knowledge questions
- Prior to the face to face case, students were asked to view videos of the other profession.
- During the face to face case students were given one of three cases and questions to foster discussion

A one-hour IPE with guided discussion and a clear case can allow students to share experiences, that can improve the understanding of each others roles and responsibilities in the treatment of breast cancer patients.

RESULTS

- 51 students complete both the pre- and post- surveys/test
- Overall = 73.9% response rate
 - PT: n= 42 for a 76.4% response rate
 - RTT: n=9 for a 90% response rate

From the Questions Regarding Roles and Responsibilities

- Mean on the pre-survey on a 5-point Likert scale = 2.94
- Mean on the post-survey on a 5-point Likert scale = 3.41
- Significance the Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test with $p < 0.05$ showed Significance with the entire group ($p < 0.001$)
- Significance with the PT students ($p < 0.001$)
- No Significance with the RTT ($p = 0.081$)

Knowledge questions scoring			
	PRE score (%)	POST score (%)	Significance
All (n=51)	67	78	$p < 0.001^*$
DPT (n=42)	67	81	$p < 0.001^*$
RTT (n=9)	67	61	Score went down

CONCLUSIONS & CURIOSITIES

- Understanding other health care providers roles and responsibilities may improve patient care.
- This type of activity can assist in improving the IPEC competencies for future healthcare providers.
- Research will continue to test the validity of the pre-IPE and post-IPE survey tool.