Increasing the Use of Olanzapine in Patients Receiving Chemotherapy in a Community Practice

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System-owned, multi-specialty
12 physicians; 9 advanced practice providers
2427 new patients annually
EMR—Epic
Project Team Members

Bindu Potugari, MD, Hematology/Oncology fellow.
Kathleen Beekman, MD, Director.
Carol Yarrington, PharmD, BCOP; Tiffany Herman, PharmD.
Jane Tolkinen, DO, Hematology/Oncology fellow.
Larry Goodin, Medical Informatics.
Sara Colom, MS, Biostatistician.
Problem Statement
Olanzapine is underused in patients receiving high emetic risk chemotherapy nationally & in MOQC

Quality Improvement Project
**Goal:** Improve prescribing of olanzapine
**Overall goal:** Improve patient quality of life
Project Timeline

Month 1
Baseline data collection

Month 2
Presentation by Practice Leader

Months 3 & 4
Motivational interviewing & Treatment protocol updated

Months 5 & 6
Data collection automated & provider education

Months 5 - 7
Infusion team & care manager education

Month 7
Data checking & analysis
Baseline data
Patients starting high emetic risk chemotherapy between November 1, 2020 – April 3, 2021
N = 126
0/126 received olanzapine
Barriers to the use of olanzapine

- Lack of agreement/comfort with guidelines
- Greater pill burden with the addition of olanzapine
- Starting with olanzapine (10 mg) too high
- Believe that many patients do not need olanzapine
- Preference to give with subsequent cycles if pt is symptomatic during cycle 1
- Prescribers can identify patients who will need olanzapine
- Lack of familiarity with olanzapine and its side effects
- Accustomed only to other antiemetics

Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs Regarding Guidelines & Olanzapine
Other barriers

Patient related factors
- Patient concerns about using a drug approved as an antipsychotic
- Increase in number of pills

External/environmental factors
- Lack of adequate time
- Olanzapine is not included in the treatment protocol
- Insurance coverage and copays
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Baseline data
Patients starting high emetic risk chemotherapy between November 1, 2020 –April 3, 2021
N = 126

No patient received olanzapine
Baseline data
Patients starting high emetic risk chemotherapy between November 1, 2020 – April 3, 2021
N = 126
No patient received olanzapine

Follow up data
Patients starting high emetic risk chemotherapy
June 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021
N = 179
63.5% received olanzapine

P < 0.001
Run chart

monthly rate of olanzapine usage

MI - motivational interview
Key Lessons and Next Steps

What is working today?
What would we do differently?
What is next?
Is it sustainable?

Discussion