

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

Bindu Potugari, MD



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

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

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



Project Timeline

Month 1
Baseline data
collection

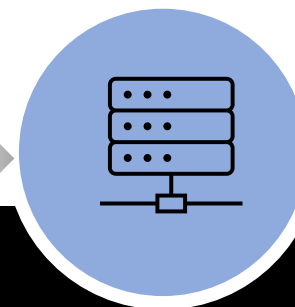
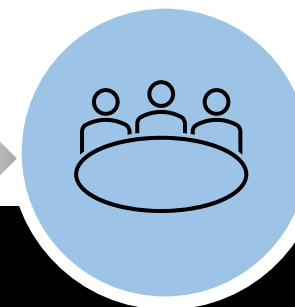
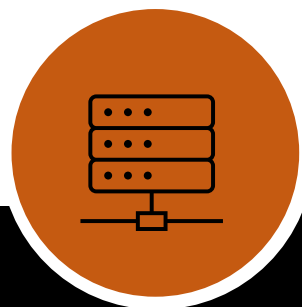
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Baseline data

Patients starting high emetic risk
chemotherapy between

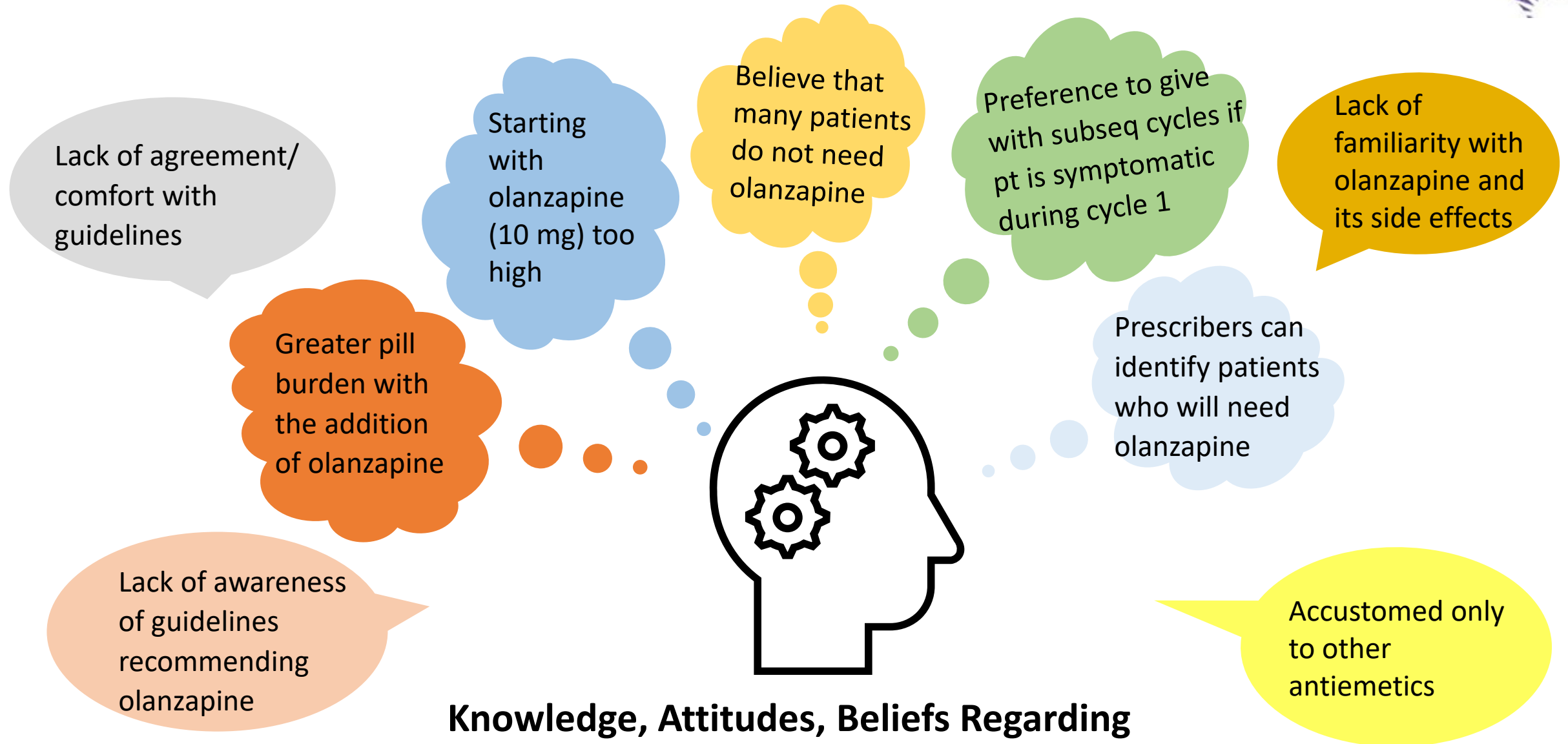
November 1, 2020 –April 3, 2021

N = 126

0/126 received olanzapine



Barriers to the use of olanzapine



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
collection

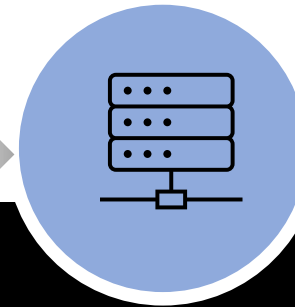
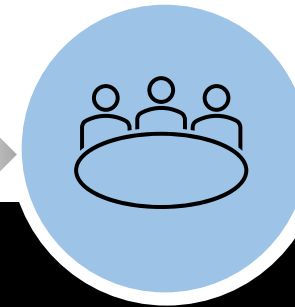
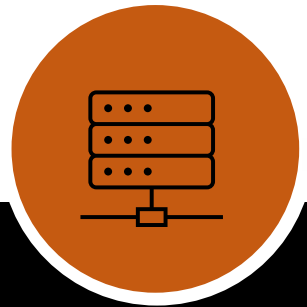
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Baseline data

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N = 126

Project Timeline

No patient received olanzapine



Month 1
Baseline data
collection

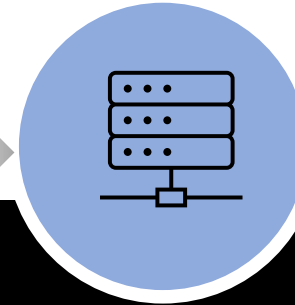
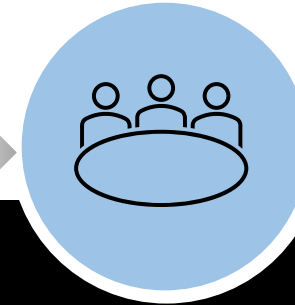
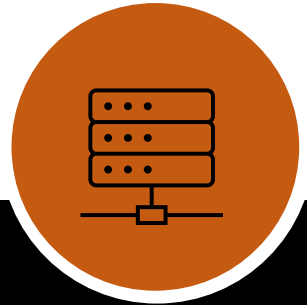
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Baseline data

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N = 126

No patient received olanzapine

Follow up data

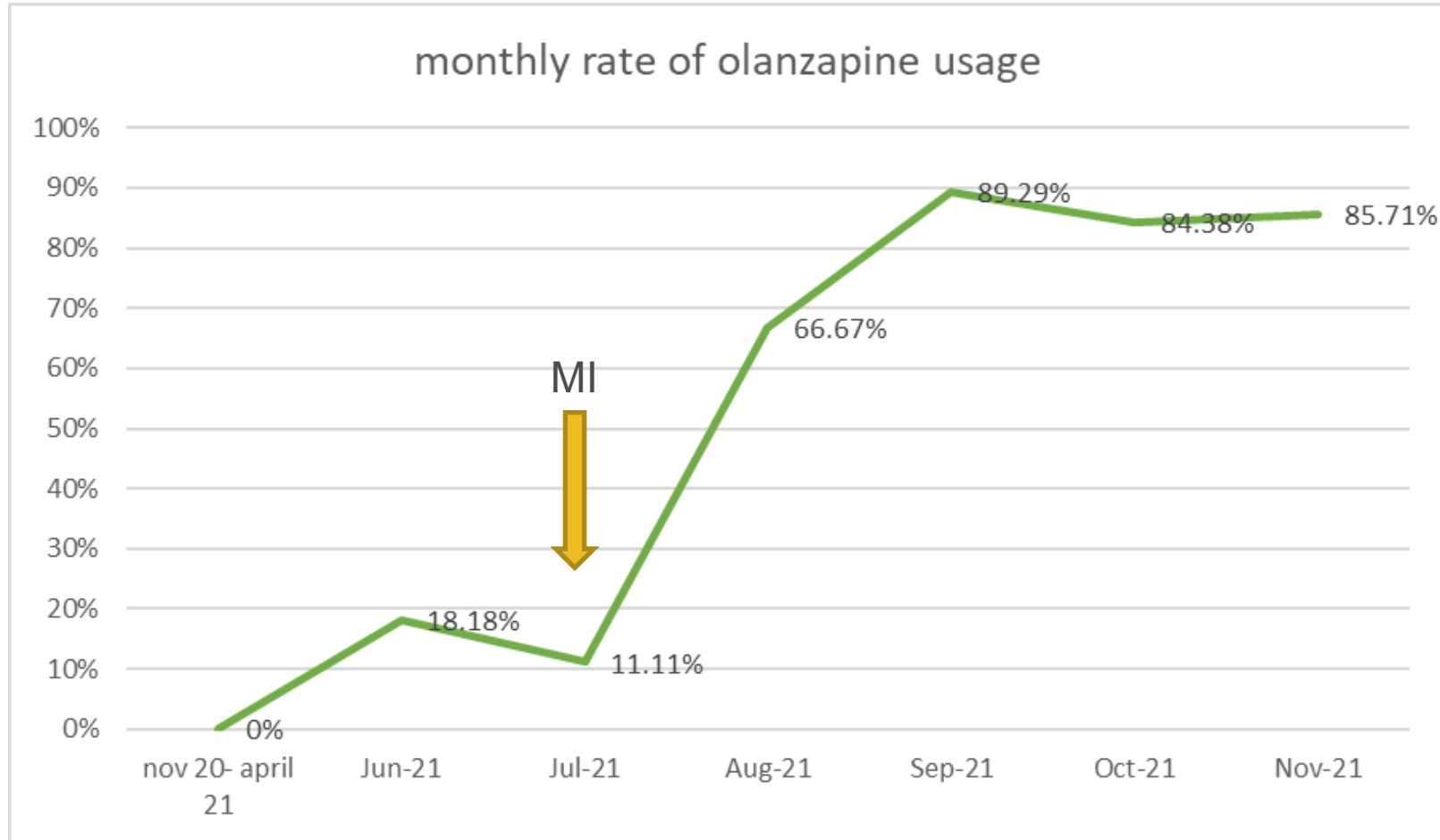
Patients starting high emetic risk
chemotherapy
June 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021
N = 179

63.5% received olanzapine

$P < 0.001$



Run chart



MI- motivational interview

Key Lessons and Next Steps

What is working today?

What would we do differently?

What is next?

Is it sustainable?

Discussion