

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO MEDICATION ADHERENCE: AN EVIDENCE-BASED SCREENING INSTRUMENT VALIDATION STUDY



Project Complete October 2018

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Disclosure

- **Authors:**

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 - Health Policy and Ethics; Nursing Theory and Advanced Practice
- Ken Thompson PharmD
 - Professor DNP Faculty for Liberty University
 - Chair for this doctoral project

- **Objectives:**

- Recognize rationale for use of an instrument to identify medication adherence barriers
- Explain early development of an evidence-based instrument
- Describe a pilot test used to evaluate the instrument

- **No Conflict of Interest**



Introduction

- Adherence is critical to management of comorbid disease

- Mental illness
- DM-2
- HTN/CVD
- Renal Impairment
- COPD





Older Cancer Patients

+

Multiple Comorbidities

+

Chemotherapy Treatment

=

Increased Risk

(Sarfati, Koczwara, & Jackson, 2016).



- **Adherence:**

“The extent to which a persons’
behavior corresponds with agreed recommendations
from a healthcare provider“ (WHO)



- **Barriers are real:**

- Financial
- Psychological
- Educational
- Medical, and
- Behavioral

- **Barriers are complicated:**

- Intentional
- Unintentional
- Independent
- Intertwined



Healthcare providers need to know:

50% to 60%

of patients
nonadherent

to

prescribed treatment

regimen

(Lam & Fresco, 2015).



Background

- 42 significant barriers identified in one extensive meta-analysis of research (Irwin & Johnson, 2015).
- Research to address barriers often focuses on a single barrier such as education or finance.



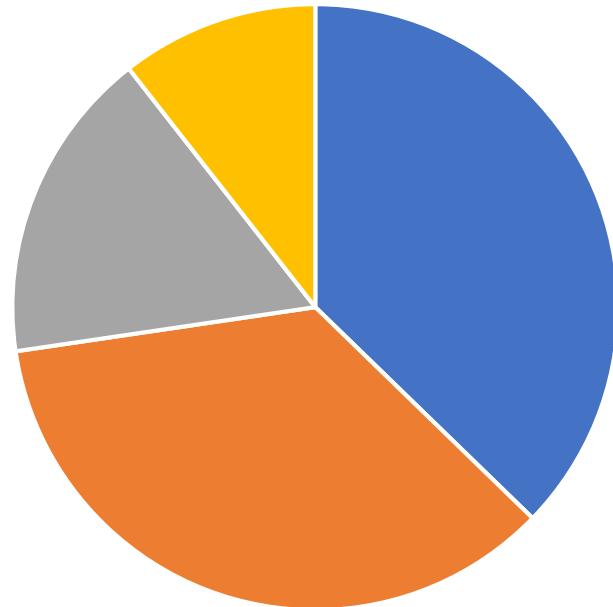
Prescriptions

- make it to the pharmacy
50% to 70%

- come out of pharmacy
48% to 66%

- taken properly
25% to 30%

- refilled as prescribed
15% to 20%



Problem Statement



Non-adherence leads to uncontrolled comorbid illness and potential for reduced cancer treatment efficacy



Healthcare providers need a valid, efficient evidence-based process to screen for the most impactful barriers



Objective

- develop an evidence-based observational screening instrument
- evaluate its potential for identifying barriers to medication adherence in adult oncology patients.

Method

- Search Literature
- Categorize into five barriers
- Organize into a screening instrument
- Study: A retrospective, quasi-experimental, observational comparison study was used to evaluate retrospective data of patients with co-morbidities.



Search Strategy

- Databases:

- CINAHL Plus with Full Text, Cochrane Library, JAMA, Journals@Ovid, MEDLINE, MEDLINE with Full-Text (EBSCO), Nursing and Allied Health, and ProQuest

- Keywords and Phrases:

- *readmission, rehospitalizations, cancer, oncology, diabetes type 2, depression, behavior, comorbidities, medication(s), adherence, nonadherence, compliance, noncompliance, barriers, obstacles, challenges, difficulties, issues, stigma, predictors, predicting, causes, drug therapy, polypharmacy, prescriptions, providers, outcomes, quality of life, algorithm, toolkit, questionnaire, assessment, instrument*

- Sources reviewed:
 - 990
- Sources used in project manuscript:
 - 55 (29 research articles and 26 additional sources)
- Melnyk Levels of Evidence used to analyze literature.
 - Priority given to level one systematic reviews, meta-analysis, meta-analysis with triangulation, clinical guidelines based on systematic reviews and meta-analysis



Critical Appraisal

Financial Social

- (AMA, 2018); (Wooldridge, Schnipper, Goggins, Dittus, & Kripalani, 2016); (Hanson, Habibi, Khamo, Abdou & Stubbings, 2014); (NCPA, 2013); (Heath, 2017); (Frakt, 2017); (KFF, 2017); (Kangovi et al., 2012); (Irwin & Johnson, 2015); (Greer et al., 2016).

Depression Distress Anxiety

- (AMA, 2018); (American Family Physician, 2012); (Millionhearts.hhs.gov, 2017); (Greer et al., 2016); (Mausbach, Schwab & Irwin, 2015); (Aikens, Trivedi, Aron, & Piette, 2015); (Spoelstra, & Sansoucie, 2015).

Medical Related Concerns

- (AMA, 2018); (CDC, 2017); (Irwin, & Johnson, 2015); (NCPA, 2013); (Peeters et al., 2015); (Balling, Erstad, & Weibel, 2015); (Lam & Fresco, 2015); (Wooldridge, Schnipper, Goggins, Dittus, & Kripalani, 2016).

Behaviors and Lifestyle

- (NCPA, 2013); (Frakt, 2017); (Millionhearts.hhs.gov, 2017); (Irwin, & Johnson, 2015); (ONS, 2016); (Wooldridge, Schnipper, Goggins, Dittus, & Kripalani, 2016).

Educational Barriers

- (Millionhearts.hhs.gov, 2017); (AMA, 2018); (Spoelstra, & Sansoucie, 2015); (Irwin, & Johnson, 2015); (Cawthon, Mion, Willens, Roumie & Kripalani, 2014); (CDC, 2017); (Heath, 2017); (Parr, 2017); (Boucher, Lucca, Hooper, Pedulla, & Berry, 2015); (Al-Batran, 2015); (Patel, Phuoc, Bachler & Atkinson, 2017); (Tomko et al., 2013); (Kangovi et al., 2012).

1. Financial and Social Barriers

- Cost is reason for not filling prescription 23.5% of the time in project by Wooldridge, Schnipper, Goggins, Dittus, & Kripalani (2016).
- 35% of patients taking four or more pills a day reported taking lower dosage or skipped doses (KFF, 2017).
- Social Support a factor 32% of the time in a meta-analysis with triangulation (Irwin & Johnson, 2015).



. Depression/Distress/Anxiety



- In a meta-analysis by Mausbach, Schwab, & Irwin (2015) 17,000 women evaluated for association of depression and adherence to oral anticancer therapy.
 - greater depression = lower adherence.
 - increased mortality
 - worse quality of life
- Depression, anxiety are predictors of poor adherence.
(Millionhearts.hhs.gov, 2017).
- Long-term distress may be a predictor of non-adherence (Aikens, Trivedi, Aron, & Piette, 2015).



3. Medical

- Roop & Wu (2014) - One of the most frequently identified barriers was adverse effects of medication.
- Greater number of different medications prescribed and higher daily frequency, increases nonadherence (AMA, 2018).
- A meta-analysis of qualitative research with triangulation to quantitative research revealed a 42% frequency of provider relationship as a predictor of adherence (Irwin, & Johnson, 2015).



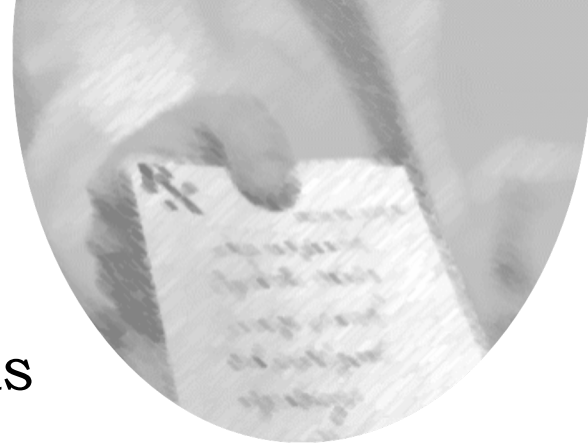
4. Behavior and Lifestyle

- Forgetting was #1 self-reported reason for nonadherence in a national telephone survey (NCPA, 2013).
 - additional research revealed may not be as large an impact (Frakt, 2017).
- Impact of “doubting necessity” 35% in a meta-analysis of research with triangulation (Irwin, & Johnson, 2015).
- More than 10 medications significantly associated with not filling medications. (Millionhearts.hhs.gov, 2017).



5. Educational

- Medication knowledge was mentioned 25% of the time as a barrier to adherence in an extensive meta-analysis of qualitative studies triangulated with quantitative studies (Irwin, & Johnson, 2015).
- 90 million adults in the United States have low health literacy which is associated with lower rates of preventive care, poorer disease control, and greater mortality, as well as increased health care utilization and costs (Cawthon, Mion, Willens, Roumie & Kripalani, 2014).



■ Transitions occur when people go through various stages and situations in life (Im, 2013).

- Developmental
- Situational
- Health/illness
- Organizational

Theoretical Framework:

Theory of Transitions

Dr. Afaf Ibrahim Meleis



Summary

- Comprehensive screening instrument addressing all five categories was not found
- With the Iowa model as a guide, it was decided to develop an evidence-based screening instrument.
 - literature classified into five categories of adherence barriers with accompanying evidence-based warning signs.
 - Result? A one-page, comprehensive screening instrument.
 - Instrument has been titled, “W-BMA” (Washburn Barriers to Medication Adherence risk assessment).



- Alan B. Pearson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Medical Oncology Clinic
- IRB Approval
- Support from key stakeholders
- CMS Oncology Care Model



Design of Study

- The Iowa model guides the researcher to test a change in practice with a pilot study (Iowa Model Collaborative, 2017).
- Retrospective, quasi-experimental, observational comparison study.
- Patient data was reviewed for existing screening methods of financial counseling, depression, distress.
- Then the new screening instrument was used to identify barriers, interventions, uncontrolled illness, and other details.
 - NCCN CTCAE criteria used for grading uncontrolled illnesses.
- Data was evaluated using frequency tables and classification tree which also helped analyze instrument sensitivity.

Population

- Patients enrolled in the OCM program.
 - Medicare recipients.
 - Received chemotherapy treatment
- At least two visits within the previous year
- Sample of 250/759 patients was selected via a report identifying those who met criteria
- Every third person selected to ensure systematic sampling
- OCM patients are managed more closely than typical patients and are more likely to have had all recommended care (reducing potential confounding variables)

Population

- Sample:
 - 250 retrospective samples,
 - seen at least twice in previous year,
 - majority of sample born between 1934 and 1950,
 - 119 male and 131 females,
 - Average number of prescribed medications = 10,
 - With 10% taking over 20 medications each.

Average Subject Profile

- 74-year-old female
- English-speaking
- Social Security with Medicare
- Cancer diagnoses
- Chemotherapy treatments
- DM-2 (elevated blood glucose)
- HTN (stage 2 hypertension)
- Ten medications
- Her medication list that she provides to the oncologist, does not match what she provides to healthcare personnel as an inpatient.
- She lives with her spouse
- ECOG 1



Data Collection

- Data reviewed and recorded financial concerns/counseling, the presence of PHQ-9 depression screen score of 15 or higher and an NCCN Distress score of 4 or higher and any relevant interventions.
- Following that initial comparison assessment, the record was then analyzed with the W-BMA screening instrument and interventions.
 - The W-BMA screening instrument includes the depression and distress screening results as part of the comprehensive review of risk.
- Also noted and recorded were signs and symptoms of uncontrolled illness, symptoms, relationship to medication, and unplanned healthcare visits.
- Data was collected and evaluated with SPSS to measure outcomes:
 - First, to see if there was an increase in percentage of patients identified with actionable barriers to medication adherence compared to those identified in current screening methods alone.
 - Second, to see if there is instrument sensitivity as predicted by analyzing if patients identified also had uncontrolled illness/adverse events.

W-BMA Instrument

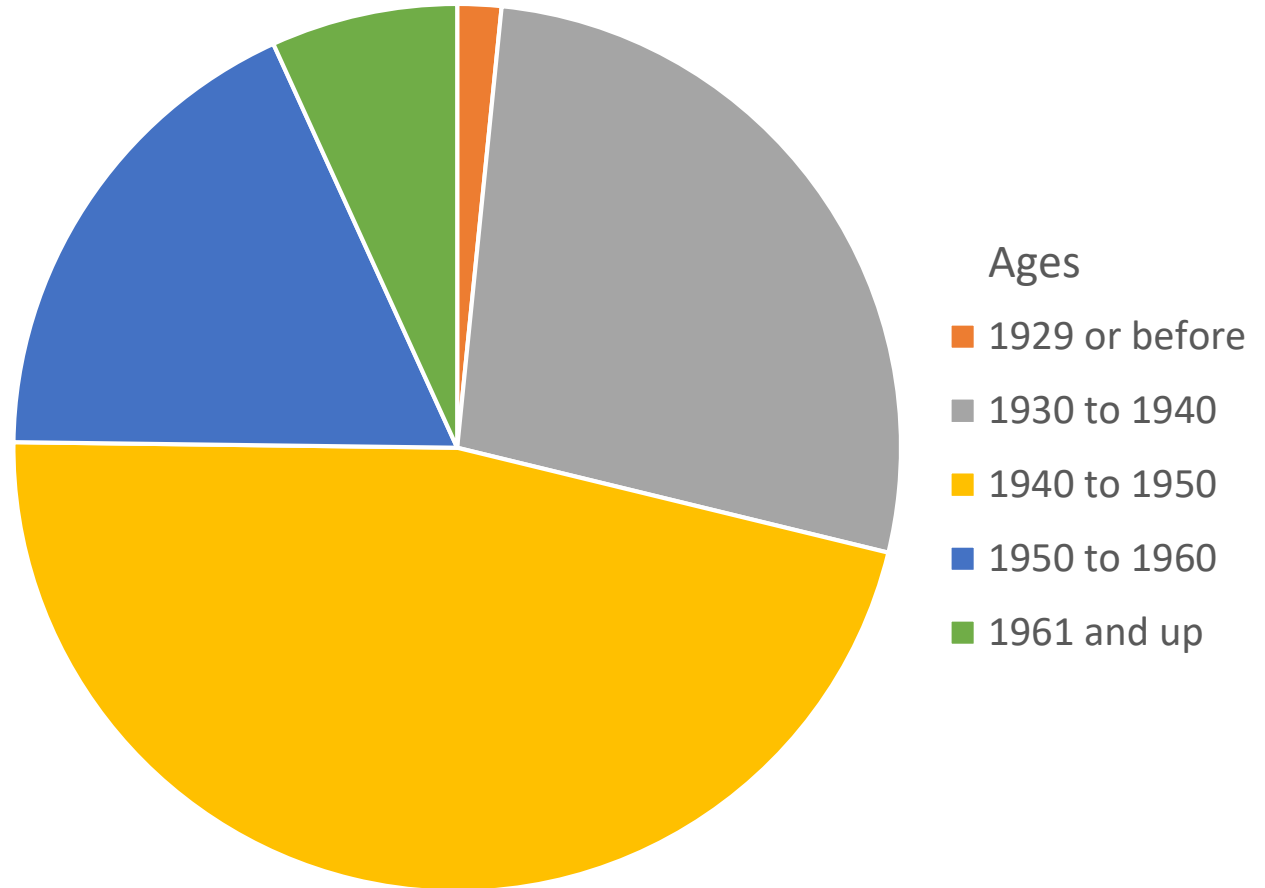
Medication Adherence Barrier Identification Tool

Place a check next to each potential barrier identified (If implemented, tool will include instructions to refer to an oncology navigator if any warning signs identified for coordination of interdisciplinary care)

Barrier:	Warning Signs:	Notes: (referrals/interventions)
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial/Social Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Age 65 or higher and one or more of the following:</u> ○ Unmarried and/or absence of social support ○ Medicaid eligible ○ Income less than 50,000 dollars/year ○ Limited pharmacy access (location of residence related to pharmacy, resides outside of city, lack of transportation) 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Depression/Distress/Anxiety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PHQ-9 Depression screen Score of 15 or higher ○ NCCN Distress Score of 4 or higher ○ Diagnoses of anxiety, or on medication for anxiety 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Related Concerns <i>Related cues: Side effects/Effectiveness/Medication Reconciliation Issues/relationship with provider/multiple comorbidities/ Polypharmacy/ Poor Performance Score (ECOG)/cancer therapy last 6 months</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More than 10 medications ○ Uncontrolled illness ○ Unexpected side effects and/or lack of expected side effects ○ Distressed about side effects ○ Prescription not filled or refilled at expected rate ○ Late stage of cancer ○ Poor physical status (ECOG 1 or over) ○ Provider relationship strained ○ No show for appointments and reluctance to reschedule/Requesting a different provider ○ Significant other concerns about not following treatment regimen 	Record # of meds here: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Behavior/Lifestyle <i>Related cues: Forgetting/Don't think it's needed/Didn't "agree" to take it/Don't like taking it/ too busy/Away from home/no established routine</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prescription not refilled at expected intervals ○ Pill bottle contains more pills than it should based on fill date (If it is the original bottle) ○ Taking additional unprescribed herbal or "natural" substances ○ Tobacco, ETOH abuse, illegal drug use ○ Weekly/daily pill box contains unopened/unused pills ○ Reluctance to accept a change in regimen ○ Preference to be "prescription free" or "all natural" or other alternatives 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational <i>Related cues: Knowledge deficits including general knowledge/limited English proficiency/functional/Cognitive/ Psychological/Health literacy/Vision Impairment/Hard of Hearing/Memory impairment/misconceptions /Distrust</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ English is not first language ○ Reluctance, difficulty, or inability to read and/or correctly explain written medication instructions (on pill bottle or med list) ○ Medication not taken correctly ○ Identifies medications by color, size, and shape but unable to explain what medications are, or what they are for. ○ Has not filled prescription/reluctant to answer questions about compliance with regimen ○ Significant other takes care of all paperwork ○ Known memory impairment 	

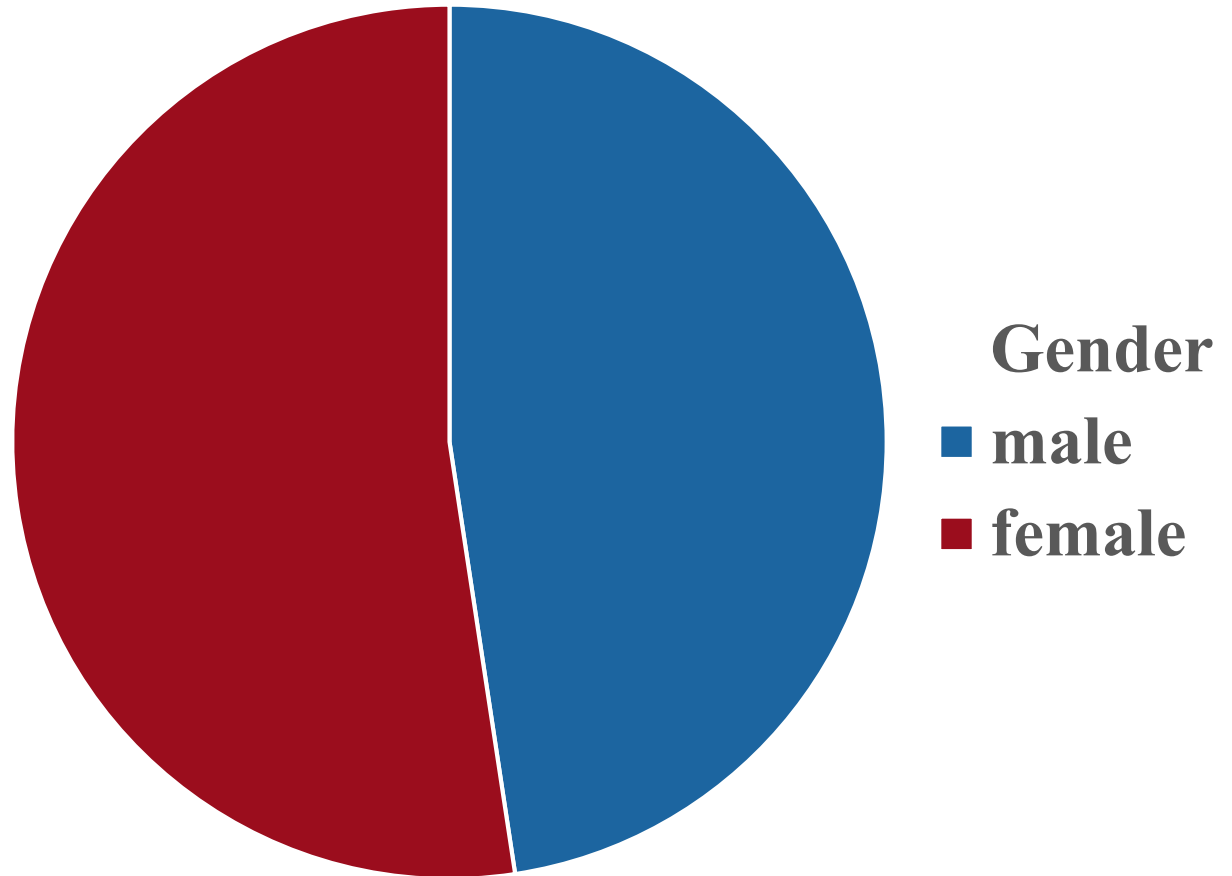
Results

**Chart 1:
Age Groups of Subjects**



**Chart 2:
Gender of Subjects**

Results



SPSS Frequencies Statistics:

PosCurrentPorNonly

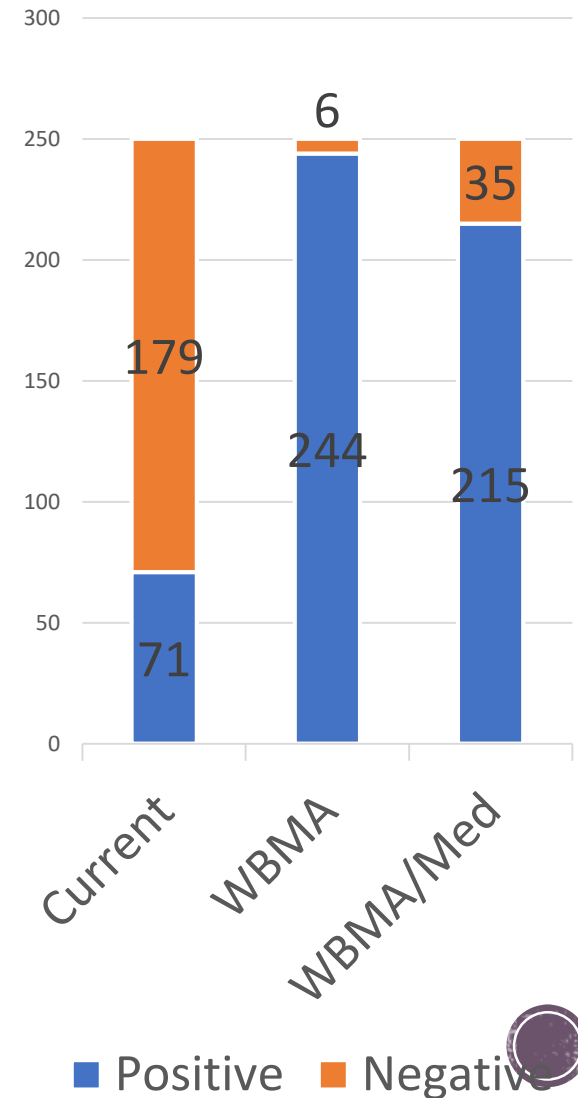
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	71	28.4	28.4	28.4
	no	179	71.6	71.6	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

PosWBMA

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	244	97.6	97.6	97.6
	no	6	2.4	2.4	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

PosWBMAunaddressed

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	215	86.0	86.0	86.0
	no	35	14.0	14.0	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	



Results

- Null hypothesis rejected.
 - The current screening method does not identify the same number of patients at risk as the W-BMA.
- In addition, significant numbers of patients with barriers and uncontrolled illness went undetected using the existing screens.
- The Classification Tree further defines the data.



W-BMA Classification Tree Results

- To further evaluate the impact of barriers found by the W-BMA instrument:
 - 56.6% of the time, uncontrolled illness was found in patients prescribed a medication for that disease
 - 62.0% ($P < .0002$) had undetected medical related barriers.



W-BMA Classification Tree Results

- From the same group of patients with uncontrolled illness related to medication prescriptions 29% ($P < .0002$) of those individuals had uncontrolled illness possibly related to undetected behavior and lifestyle related barriers. In that case, 80% went undetected.
- As in the first tree, we see 34% lower incidence of uncontrolled illness when barriers are detected and addressed by oncology healthcare personnel.



Results

- SPSS sensitivity test on patients with barriers:
 - 83.2% of patients identified with barriers had an uncontrolled illness. (Chart not shown)
 - 86.2% of patients with barriers had uncontrolled illness related to a prescribed medication.

Observed	.00	1.00	Percent Correct
.00	21	61	25.6%
1.00	5	102	95.3%
Overall Percentage	13.8%	86.2%	65.1%



Implications for practice:

- W-BMA was able to detect a larger group of patients at risk for nonadherence, than the current, existing method.
- Patients found by the W-BMA instrument with undetected barriers had a significantly high rate of uncontrolled illness and adverse events.
- Removing barriers to medication adherence may result in better controlled illness and reduced healthcare costs.



Discussion

Although the research did not focus on the impact of navigation or social work on patient adherence,

the data indicates that there is a strong relationship between lower rates of uncontrolled illness and involvement of these support services to address barriers.



Conclusion

Healthcare systems must make the effort to improve adherence to medication regimens and reduce the incidence of uncontrolled illness and adverse events

The validating evidence from literature, and results of this pilot project, provide impetus to continue further exploration of use of the W-BMA screening instrument as part of a comprehensive adherence program in our most vulnerable patient populations

Questions

Thank you for allowing me to present my scholarly project today.

I'm happy to take any questions.

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