

Performance Improvement Report

Number of breaks in Radiation Therapy due to skin/wound integrity on Breast cancer patients

Department(s): Radiation Oncology

Provide a brief overview using the PDCA model

Date: January – September 2015

<p><i>Rationale - Reason for monitoring this process/procedure</i></p>	<p>Radiation skin reactions called Radiation Dermatitis are the most common side effects to radiation therapy particularly where skin folds are present. For Breast cancer patients who are receiving radiation treatment, skin reactions to RT is one of the major concerns. The Radiation Oncology staff helps prevent, minimize, and manage this side effect of breast cancer patients by early education on skin care and weekly on treat visits with the physician and nurses.</p>
<p>Plan</p>	<p>There are various stages of Radiation Dermatitis ranging from erythema to moist desquamation. Advanced stages of radiation dermatitis places the patient at risk for secondary wound infections, pain and subsequent delays in delivery of their prescribed radiation does due to interruptions in therapy, called “treatment breaks”. The nursing staff at the J. Phillip Cita Cancer Center have an established protocol for the ongoing assessment, management and intervention to assist in minimizing the extent of radiation dermatitis experienced by patients. The extent of radiation dermatitis can be influenced by many variables including patient age, nutritional and hydration levels, weight and body habitus and size and depth of breast skin folds.</p>
<p><i>Opportunity or Problem Statement - Define process being monitored</i></p>	<p>A prospective study was conducted to evaluate the status of skin integrity for all women being treated with external beam radiation therapy for breast cancer in 2015. Every woman was evaluated during the weekly on treatment visit and their extent of radiation dermatitis was assessed, documented and any required interventions were implemented. Any instance of Radiation Therapy treatment break was documented.</p>
<p>Plan</p>	<p>Number of patients experiencing break in Radiation therapy due to wound integrity will give us a measure of the Radiation Oncology Department process on how they monitor their breast cancer patients on skin integrity during treatment.</p> <p>Record the number of breast cancer patients receiving active RT Treatment quarterly, and document how many pts are on break due to skin integrity during treatment. Our targeted outcome is to avoid any treatment breaks due to radiation dermatitis.</p> <p>Based on the Oncology Roundtable Benchmark: 0 Breaks</p>
<p><i>Before Measures - Analyze Baseline</i></p>	<p>This study was conducted prospectively on all patients treated for breast cancer with external beam radiation therapy. For each quarter, the following data describes the patient population treated:</p> <p>Jan – Mar 2015 -16patients, age range : 42-77, weight range: 100-240 of patients, average degree of dermatitis: Grade 2</p> <p>Apr – June 2015 – 12 patients, age range : 38-76, weight range: 162-292, average degree of dermatitis: Grade 1</p> <p>Jul – Sept 2015 – 23 patients, age range: 44-76, weight range:145-250, Average Grade 1</p>
<p><i>Opportunities for Improvement Identified & Change Implemented</i></p>	<p>The outcomes of this prospective evaluation indicated that there were NO treatment breaks due to skin integrity issues. The nursing protocol established for patient education, skin care management and early detection and intervention for radiation dermatitis are effective in ensuring the patient can receive their course of treatment without interruption. The component of care are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording and monitoring the process of care for patients who are in active treatment for breast cancer • Education on side effects of RT upon consult; literature given and reviewed with patient • Continuous verbal education from staff on skin care • Once a week on treat visit with Radiation Oncologist, and nurse for any other intervention to promote/educate on skin integrity during treatment.
<p>Do</p>	

*After Measures -
Evaluate Results*

Benchmark: 0 (Oncology Roundtable)

J. Phillip Citta Cancer Center outcomes – 0% treatment breaks

Check

44-	# of pts treated for breast cancer	# of breaks in RT due to skin/wound integrity
Jan-Mar 2015	16	0
Apr-Jun 2015	12	0
Jul-Sept 2015	23	0

*Assessment of Action
Taken & Future Plan*

Based on our results, the Radiation Oncology Department IPOC process has been successful and will continue in monitoring and minimizing the effects on Radiation skin reaction on breast cancer patients on active treatment.

Act/Plan