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## BACKGROUND

With advances in screening and targeted therapies in thoracic malignancies, cancer care is becoming more complex and tumor site-specific multidisciplinary tumor boards (TB) are becoming more common. Many hospitals have identified the need to have pre-diagnosis, confirmed diagnosis and molecular TB. Aside from patient advocacy within the multidisciplinary team, many navigators not only actively participate but also prepare up to 3 separate TB. While studying the operation of thoracic TB, we examined facility cultures and navigator empowerment during patient discussion. The GO<sub>2</sub> Foundation for Lung Cancer has two centers of excellence programs (COEs): Screening Centers of Excellence (SCOE) and Care Continuum Center of Excellence (CCCOE) that are committed to provide evidence-based lung cancer care.

## OBJECTIVES

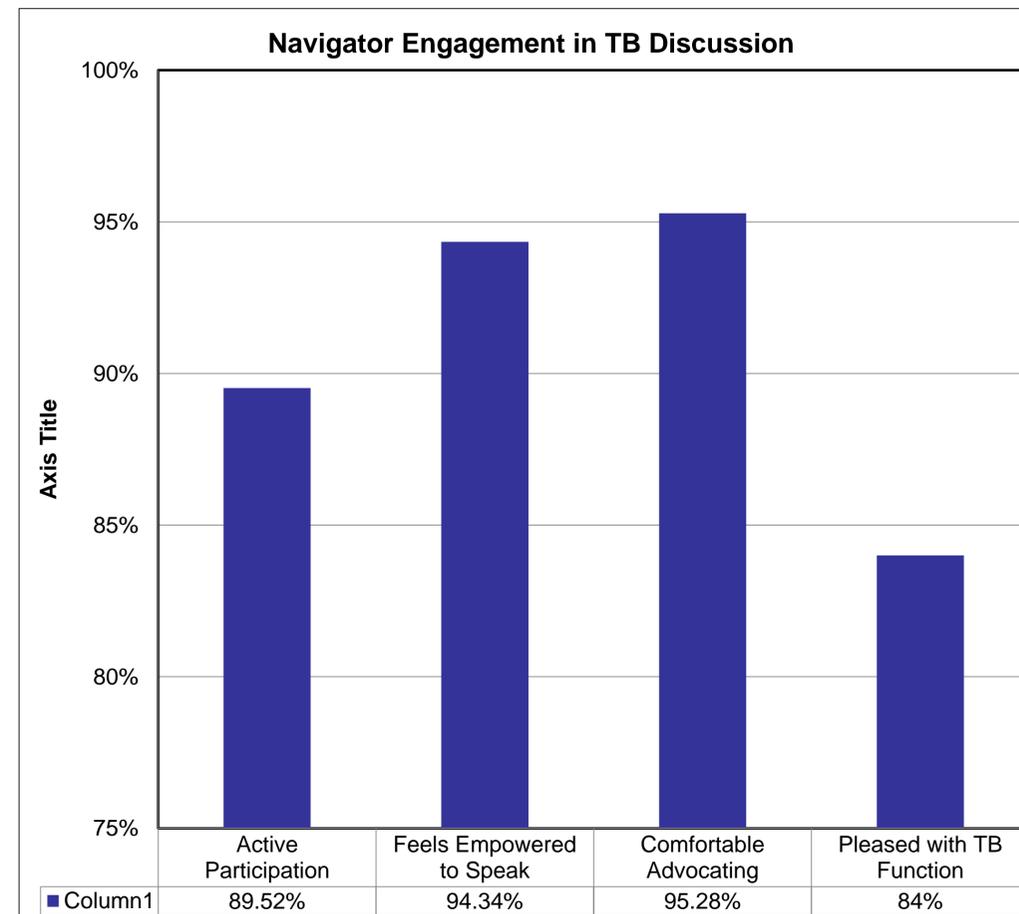
- Analyze the navigator's workflow for tumor board
- Assess the empowerment of navigators by asking them specific questions regarding their facility's culture
- Identify navigator contribution to tumor board and determine whether or not that contribution changed the recommendation for patient treatment

## METHODS

- Survey Monkey was emailed to 550 SCOE and 43 CCCOE program coordinators and navigators with three weeks to respond to 30 questions, a mixture of multiple choice and open-ended responses.
- 89 SCOE and 16 CCCOE responses were received for a total of 105. Members of both programs were included in the CCCOE numbers.
- The majority of lung navigators have professional training with the most common being RN, Respiratory Therapist, Radiology Technologist and Social Worker.
- Targeted questions were asked surrounding navigator empowerment:
  - As a navigator, do you feel empowered by your multidisciplinary team to speak up?
  - Do you feel comfortable being an advocate for your patient in your TB?
  - As a navigator, have you ever shared patient information that changed the recommendation for the treatment plan in the TB setting?

## RESULTS

- Sixty-two facilities responded that they offer more than one TB.
- Statistics show a split between navigator and others preparing with 27.36% of navigators being totally responsible.
- Of those surveyed, 41 navigators dedicate over 2 hours in conference preparation with 2 navigators spending up to 10 hours.
- Twenty-eight navigators prepare for two or more conferences.



## RESULTS

### NAVIGATORS EFFECTING CHANGE IN TUMOR BOARDS

**67.62%**

Of Navigators have shared information that changed the recommendation for the patient's treatment plan

## CONCLUSIONS

Navigators play a vital leadership role and feel empowered as part of the multidisciplinary team demonstrated by the responses within the survey. Tumor board prep are elements of a navigator's workflow but this study does show others are taking on preparation. With increasing the number of conferences held, we need to ensure that the navigator remains empowered as a patient advocate. Further studies may identify less navigator empowerment since our COE's spotlight navigators as part of the multidisciplinary team.

## REFERENCES

Gentry, Sharon. (2018) "The Role of Navigation Around Tumor Board Participation" Lillie D. Shockney (ed.) *Team-Based Oncology Care: The Pivotal Role of Oncology Navigation*. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing pp. 227-250

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