

PATIENTS' PERSPECTIVE OF TRANSITION TO A HEAD AND NECK CANCER SURVIVORSHIP CLINIC RUN BY AN ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER

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► **Background:** With the growing population of cancer survivors in the United States, an increasing number of survivorship clinics are being run by advanced practice providers (APP) such as physician assistants and/or nurse practitioners.

► **Objective:** The objective of this study was to assess patient's perception and understanding of transition to a head and neck cancer survivorship clinic run by an APP.

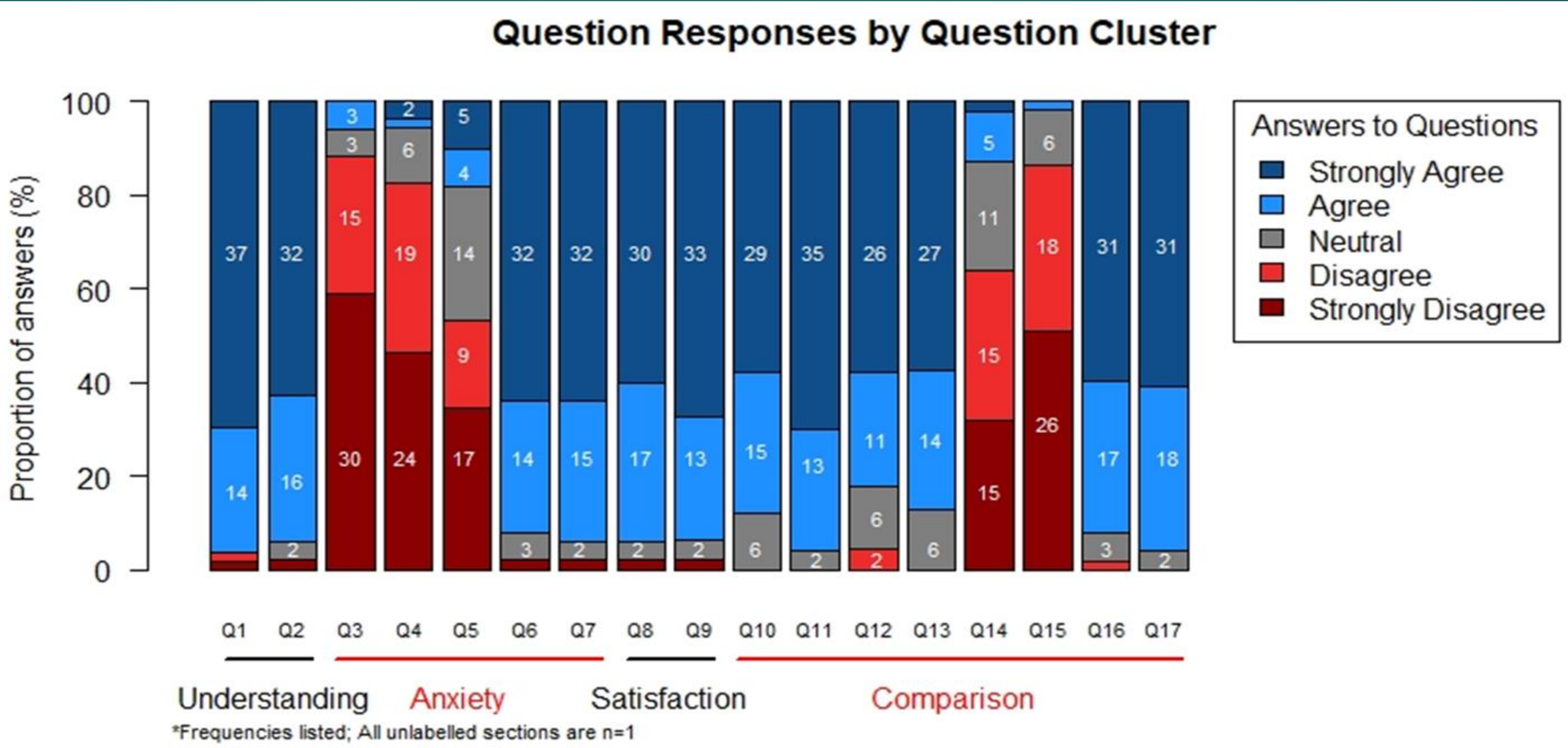
► **Materials/Methods:**

Study design: This was a single institution survey study.

Participants: Adult head and neck cancer patients transitioning from a physician-run clinic to an independently run APP Survivorship Clinic within an academic otolaryngology department. Patients were eligible to transition to the APP-led Survivorship Clinic after 2 years from completing treatment.

Study assessments: The survey consisted of 17 questions assessing the patient's levels of understanding, anxiety, satisfaction, and comparison concerning providers. A 5-point Likert scale was utilized. The primary question of interest was patient satisfaction with an APP. Comparison of patients satisfaction between APP- and physician-run clinics was also assessed.

Statistical Analysis: Standard descriptive statistics were used to analyze demographic characteristics of the patients enrolled in the study, as well as the response to each of the survey questions.



Q1.	I understand the role of the APP in my care.
Q2.	I understand the role of the Head and Neck Survivorship clinic.
Q3.	I have concerns about having my cancer surveillance being performed by an APP.
Q4.	I am concerned that if my cancer comes back, it will be missed.
Q5.	I would like to have my cancer surveillance performed by a physician
Q6.	I am confident in my APPs clinical ability.
Q7.	I am comfortable receiving care in the Survivorship Clinic.
Q8.	I received as much information about my care/condition from my APP that I desired.
Q9.	My APP delivered thorough and quality care.
Q10.	My surgeon spent enough time with me during my appointments.
Q11.	My APP spends enough time with me during my appointments.
Q12.	It was easy to get in to see my surgeon if I had a problem.
Q13.	It was easy to get in to see my APP if I have/had a problem.
Q14.	My surgeon is often running behind in clinic.
Q15.	My APP is often running behind in clinic.
Q16.	My questions and concerns about treatment side effects were addressed by my surgeon.
Q17.	My questions and concerns about treatment side effects were addressed by my APP.

► **Results:** A total of 53 patients were surveyed between August 2018 and January 2019. The average age of participants was 64.3 (SD=8.51) years old and the mean time from treatment completion was 64.0 months. Prior treatments included surgery alone (23.5%), non-surgical (27.5%), and surgery with adjuvant therapy (49%). Cancer sites included oropharynx (46.3%), oral cavity (22.2%), larynx (16.7%) and other (14.8%). Within the group, 96% and 94% expressed understanding of the roles of the APP and the survivorship clinic, respectively. Regarding the primary endpoint (Figure 1), 92% of patients expressed confidence in the APP's clinical ability, 94% expressed satisfaction with the APP, and 94% were comfortable receiving care in the Survivorship Clinic. Only 6% of patients were concerned by having an APP provide cancer surveillance and 18% preferred surveillance to be performed by a physician. When comparing providers, the APP scored slightly better than the physicians on spending enough time with the patient (96% vs 88%), ease of access to the provider (87% vs 82%), perception of running behind in clinic (2% vs 13%), and addressing concerns about treatment side effects (96% vs 92%).

► **Conclusion:** In this study, we found a positive patient perception of transition to an APP-led survivorship clinic. Survivors expressed high levels of confidence and satisfaction with the APP's care and the survivorship clinic. When comparing providers, satisfaction scores were similar between APPs and physicians, with trends towards slightly higher satisfaction with APPs. In an era of increasing numbers of cancer survivors, these data support the utilization of APP-led survivorship clinics to care for these patients.