Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy Treatment Patterns for Stage III Non-small Cell Lung Cancer in Veterans

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BACKGROUND

Patient characteristics had p<0.05. Model adjusted for all other covariates in Table 1, as well as diagnosis year, Census region, race (white vs. non-white), comorbidities, and distance between lung nodules (Table 3). The reason was not documented for 43% of patients.

METHODS

Electronic medical record data from the Veterans Affairs (VA) Corporate Data Warehouse and data from the VA Central Cancer Registry were used to identify veterans who were veterans with stage III NSCLC from 2013 to 2017.

Inclusion criteria:

- survived at least 45 days post-diagnosis,
- had not lung resection within 180 days,
- had at least two outpatient visits at VA oncology clinics,
- received chemotherapy (CT) and/or radiotherapy (RT) within 120 days of diagnosis, and
- had their records reviewed by a cancer registrar.

Initial treatment was defined as treatment received within 120 days of the diagnosis date2. cCRT was defined as initiation of CT and initiation of RT more than 14 days apart. In a chart review, reason for not receiving cCRT was identified for the 142 patients who did not receive cCRT.

RESULTS

From 2013 to 2017, 3,414 veterans with stage III NSCLC met inclusion criteria (Figure 1). Table 1 shows patient and facility characteristics. The Department of Veterans Affairs | Office of Research & Development

Figure 1. Flowchart

Figure 2. Treatment Rates by Census Region

Figure 3. Treatment Rates by Diagnosis Year

Table 1: Patient and Medical Center Characteristics

Table 2: Adjusted Odds Ratios of cCRT Receipt

Table 3: Reasons for Not Receiving cCRT per Chart Review

CONCLUSION

- Receipt of cCRT in veterans with unresectable, stage III NSCLC slightly increased from 2013 to 2017, and varied across Census regions.

- Veterans who were older, non-white, or had more comorbidities were less likely to receive cCRT.

Limitations

- The cCRT and sCRT definitions were limited to the use of CT and RT start dates due to data, and therefore, do not account for induction chemotherapy.

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cCRT, Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy; sCRT, Sequential Chemotherapy; VAMC, Veteran Affairs Medical Center

References
