



Quality Improvement of Timing Metrics for Definitive Surgical Management in Head and Neck Cancer Care at the Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) Department of Otolaryngology

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Objectives:

The objective of this study is to assess timing metrics for the delivery of head and neck cancer (HNC) care at the Eastern Virginia Medical School Department of Otolaryngology. We plan to identify patients newly diagnosed with HNC between September 1, 2018 through August 30, 2019 to assess how quickly patients are treated based on our current standards.

Materials and Methods:

This is a retrospective chart review of patients that meet our inclusion criteria for newly diagnosed HNC. Collection will include basic demographic information, site, subsite, and stage of the HNC, dates related to clinic appointments, surgery, and imaging, and adjuvant treatment when applicable. This will allow us to initially determine which patient demographic factors have a significant impact on treatment delay as well physician and system barriers in patients that do not meet the defined timing metrics. We ultimately hope to create an action plan to address modifiable barriers to patient treatment.

Results:

The primary outcomes that will be measured include timing metrics from the time of the first office visit to staging endoscopy, time to definitive surgery when applicable, and timing of imaging in relation to definitive surgery. We then plan to implement our action plan and reassess the same information on new patients for three months to determine effectiveness of the action plan.

Conclusions:

Data collection is still on-going so no definitive conclusions can be drawn at this time, but we hypothesize that the action plan will help us improve adherence to the defined timing metrics.