ENAGE: Evaluation of a streamlined oncologist-led BRCA mutation testing and counseling model for patients with ovarian cancer

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Introduction

A positive BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 mutation (BRCA mutation) status is established as a positive biomarker of potential benefit from treatment with poly (ADP) ribose polymerase (PARP) inhibitors, which are currently only licensed as treatment for patients with advanced ovarian cancer who have a family history of BRCA mutations. 

Germline BRCA1 are found in approximately 15% of newly diagnosed ovarian cancer (including high-grade serous ovarian cancer) and are associated with a very early age of onset of the disease.1-4 BRCA status is of increasing importance for cancer prevention and treatment decision making. Several factors (such as time to obtaining a genetic test result and turnaround time of genetic testing) have been identified as facilitators of genetic testing.5,6

Methods

Study design

The ENAGE study was a prospective, observational study, which enrolled 700 evaluable patients across sites in the US (11 sites) and Europe (eight sites in Spain, seven sites in Italy, and five sites in other countries).7 Sites were identified through institutional review board approval. Participants were eligible if they had a new diagnosis and were aged ≥18 years old at the time of enrollment. Women with a personal history of malignant cancer, a history of other cancers in relatives (eg, breast, ovarian, prostate), or a history ofBRCA1/2 testing were excluded. No such family history was required.1,3

Results

The ENAGE study results show that a streamlined, oncologist-led BRCA test counseling was associated with 96.3% (26 out of 27 surveys completed) of geneticists who completed a survey, which was an effective use of their time, and 90.6% (413 of 458) agreed that they welcomed the opportunity to carry out pre- or post-BRCA test counseling. 

Conclusions

The ENAGE study results show that a streamlined, oncologist-led BRCA test counseling is more efficient and acceptable to patients and geneticists. The integration of BRCA genetic testing into existing oncology workups in ENAGE resulted in a high degree of satisfaction and satisfaction level among both patients and geneticists. The development of local BRCA testing guidelines, including clinics, nurses and geneticists and following a similar pathway to the one used in this study, should allow easier comparison of genetic counseling outcomes and better use of resources in the management of patients with ovarian cancer.

References

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