Journal Watch

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No abstract available

Summary:
- Presents the results of a survey of 739 family physicians in British Columbia.
- Specifically looked at whether palliative care knowledge and training, as well as interest in further education were related to factors such as age, year of graduation, type of post-graduate training, location of training, and years of practice.
- 288/739 returned (39%).
- Description of age, sex, years of training and where they graduated was unremarkable.
- 62% had been exposed to oncology, 29% felt training was adequate
- 41% had been exposed to palliative care, 37% felt training was adequate
- A correlation between age and palliative care training (p<.01 r=13.6) with the majority below 40 years had some training in palliative care
- Also a correlation between years of graduation and palliative care training (p<.05)
- The author commented >1/3 of the graduates since 1990 still have not received formal training.
- 79% reported they would attend CME palliative care training. The author did not ask what type of training would be preferred.
- Comments noted the family physicians wanted to maintain their role as primary caregiver and wanted improved communication with the cancer center.

Comments:

Strengths:
- There are very few other published surveys about family physicians and palliative care to describe the status and desire for palliative care education.
- Straightforward presentation of survey
- These results are what would be expected.

Weaknesses:
- The authors identify that results from a 39% response rate cannot be generalized. These results do seem consistent with other such surveys.
- Although family physicians identify that further CME education would be useful, it would have been helpful to identify the best model for provision of this education to such a diverse and widespread group.