Project Overview, Cancer SCN

Advancing Knowledge for Improved Diagnosis of Colorectal Cancer in Alberta: Perspectives of Patients Diagnosed with a Colorectal Mass in Hospital and Individuals Closely Related to Them

Principal Investigators

Dr. Anna Pujadas Botey, Cancer Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)
Ashley Watson, Unit 83 (Colorectal and General Surgery Unit), Rockyview General Hospital

Funder

Alberta Registered Nurses Educational Trust

Summary

Colorectal cancer is among the four cancers most prevalent in Alberta, and over a third of patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer are diagnosed in the hospital. These patients are often diagnosed with later stage cancer, and associated with lower quality of life after treatment and reduced survival relative to patients diagnosed at earlier stages.

There is much we do not know about factors that explain why so many patients are diagnosed in hospital, rather than in the community, with family physicians. The Cancer SCN, in partnership with Unit 83 at the Rockyview General Hospital (Calgary), is conducting study to explore that. We are interviewing patients diagnosed with a colorectal mass in hospital and individuals in close relationship with them (like family relatives and close friends) to understand how we could better support cancer diagnosis in the community.

Findings of the study will inform the development of a pathway to streamline the diagnosis of colorectal cancer in Alberta, and inform a provincial strategy that supports facilitated cancer diagnosis. This study will also provide insights into approaches to increase awareness about colorectal cancer among Albertans, and enhance nursing professional practice related to diagnosis and care of patients diagnosed with this type of cancer.

Alberta Health Services
Inspiring solutions. Together.
Strategic Clinical Networks™

Updated March 2023