

Utilization of the electronic medical record to evaluate vaginal atrophy in a geriatric primary care population; measuring impact of screening and treatment on quality of life and patient satisfaction

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Objectives

- Improve screening for postmenopausal vaginal atrophy
- Enhance treatment of symptoms by engaging patients through the electronic medical record and health information technology.
- Evaluate the utility of the electronic record as a means of communication in the elderly population

Results:

- 454 women were enrolled
- 95% had symptoms of vaginal atrophy
- Only 19 women were diagnosed with vaginal atrophy and of those, only 9 were prescribed vaginal estrogen therapy.
- Mychart users were more likely to complete their questionnaires at baseline (88% vs 51%) and also at 6 months (36% vs 5%)
- 6 month response rate dropped significantly.
- At 6 months, there were no differences in vaginal atrophy symptom scores or diagnosis of atrophy in any of groups.

Impact

- This project highlights that vaginal atrophy and symptoms of pelvic health dysfunction are vastly underdiagnosed and treated.
- Even with improved screening and heightened awareness of the issue, women are still not getting the treatments or symptom relief that they need.
- There is continued need for improvement and education in this field. We must continue to raise awareness for this problem by educating providers and patients about the symptoms, related conditions, and treatments available.
- We did succeed in improving utilization of health information technology. By enrolling over 200 women in MyChart, we have helped to enhance communication between patients and providers across our system.