The NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP) strives to improve the quality of life for patients and reduce cancer-related deaths by advancing cancer therapies through research. Since the program's establishment in 1999, the NCCN ORP has brought millions of dollars in research grants to investigators at NCCN Member Institutions. Research grants are provided to NCCN through collaborations with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies; these grants are in turn used to support scientifically meritorious cancer research efforts.

NCCN ORP studies typically explore new avenues of clinical investigation and seek answers to important cancer-related questions. All studies are approved and funded through a scientific peer-review process and are overseen by the ORP.

This feature highlights an NCCN study funded through the grant mechanism.

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For more information on specific trials, including patient selection criteria, use the contact information listed with each study.

For more information on the NCCN ORP, including a complete detailing of the clinical studies currently underway at NCCN Member Institutions, go to www.nccn.org/education-research/nccn-oncology-research-program/orp-main-page.

Feasibility and Impact of a Comprehensive Telehealth Program on Reducing Geographic Barriers to Treatment and Improving Symptom Management in Rural Patients With Advanced Ovarian Cancer

Principal Investigator: Haller J. Smith, MD

Condition: Ovarian – quality

Institution: University of Alabama at Birmingham

This prospective pilot study is evaluating the use of a patient engagement and education platform (PET) in addition to select telemedicine visits to improve symptom management and access to care for rural patients with advanced ovarian cancer. Inclusion criteria includes patients aged ≥18 years with a new diagnosis of stage III or IV epithelial ovarian cancer being treated at the University of Alabama at Birmingham who live ≥50 miles from the institution. It is anticipated that, over the enrollment period, 120 patients will be eligible, with a goal enrollment of 60 patients. Patients can be enrolled regardless of decision for upfront surgery followed by adjuvant or neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Patients must have access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone either personally or through a caregiver in order to participate in the PET portion of the intervention. Exclusion criteria includes patients with ovarian cancer who elect not to proceed with chemotherapy, those who choose to undergo chemotherapy at another institution, and those who are not fluent in the English language.

Patients presenting for initial consultation for a new or suspected ovarian cancer diagnosis will be prescreened to determine whether they meet inclusion criteria; those who qualify will be approached for consent at the time of their initial consultation. Patients will be enrolled in the PET for the duration of their primary chemotherapy (generally 18 weeks). Telemedicine visits will replace select in-person visits over the course of their primary treatment and initial surveillance.

Primary Objective:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive telehealth program for rural patients with newly diagnosed advanced ovarian cancer

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ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: N/A