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Development of a AYA Team: Ensuring Age-Appropriate Cancer Care for Adolescents and Young Adults.

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Significance and Background

- Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA's) with cancer are a distinct patient group.
- Care management needs for the AYA patient fall between the familycentered pediatric approach, and a disease-centered adult paradigm
- Poorer overall survival trends are demonstrated in AYA patients with cancer compared to older and younger age groups.
- Factors implicated in lagging survival statistics include: inadequate access to care, lack of insurance, delays in diagnosis and treatment, lack of psychosocial support and follow-up care
- A multidisciplinary group of oncology professionals at the Lehigh Valley
 Health Network (LVHN) addressed the age-related needs of AYA's with cancer
 by developing processes to facilitate access to care, clinical trials, financial
 services, fertility counseling, and psychosocial support and survivorship
 resources

Purpose

To develop an age—appropriate approach to patient care and management of adolescents and young adults (AYA's) with cancer.

Interventions

- A core group of oncology certified nurses, social workers, clinical trials nurses, financial specialists and an oncology counselor developed three algorithms to delineate processes for AYA patient assessment, referrals, and interventions
- Streamlined instructions direct implementation of appropriate patient measures which can include: a fertility consult request, financial services referral, interventions for psychosocial/ behavioral concerns and others.
- A resource listing of supplemental patient support and survivorship/respite services was also created.
- Oncology clinical nurse specialists also developed a CE accredited educational offering and provided instruction in the office, infusion and radiation oncology settings to facilitate application of the process algorithms and use of the resource listing.

Evaluation

- In the 18 months since the development of the AYA Team 47% of patients presented at Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA) Tumor Board have been consented to clinical trials.
- Eighty eight referrals have been made to fertility preservation, social work, counseling and financial services.
- Oncology nursing staff has reported increased knowledge of AYA needs and LVHN resources available for assistance as a result of educational initiatives.

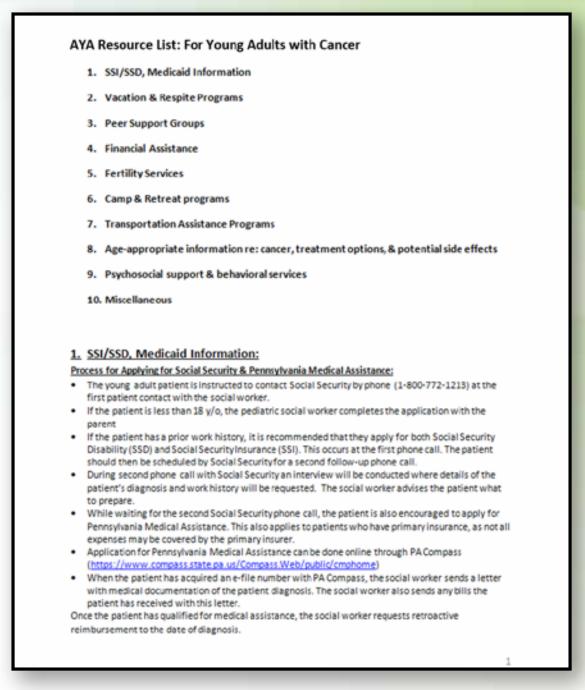
Fertility Considerations Associated **AYA Algorithm** with Cancer Treatment Discuss possibility of sperm banking 1 business day of referral: Prior to start of therapy: Discuss possibility of: Cryopreservation-(Embryo vs. Oocyte) preservation Can therapy be delayed lon enough for oocyte stimulation Surgical relocation of ovaries Done during cancer surgery for assistance with Menstrual Suppression Women are at risk for Prior To EPIC Amb Onc Referral to remature ovarian failure 💳 Factors influencing fertility after treatment: due to chemotherapy Call or Send QCL ** Radiation (cranial, spinal, pelvic **Label "AYA". Add "urgent" & page Calculate Risk Using Fertile Hope Risk Calculator: NCCN guidelines AYA Psychosocial/Behavioral AYA Psychosocial/Behavioral Considerations **Considerations** Assess AYA's Relationships other AYA's with cancer treatment options, & potential side effects Create flexible visiting hrs. in a AYA SW/RN EPIC Amb Onc Referral to EPIC Amb Onc Referral to CST- Soci Assess Insurance, Financial, & Transportation Label "AYA" "urgent" & page or phone, & add "urgent" if immediate attention needed

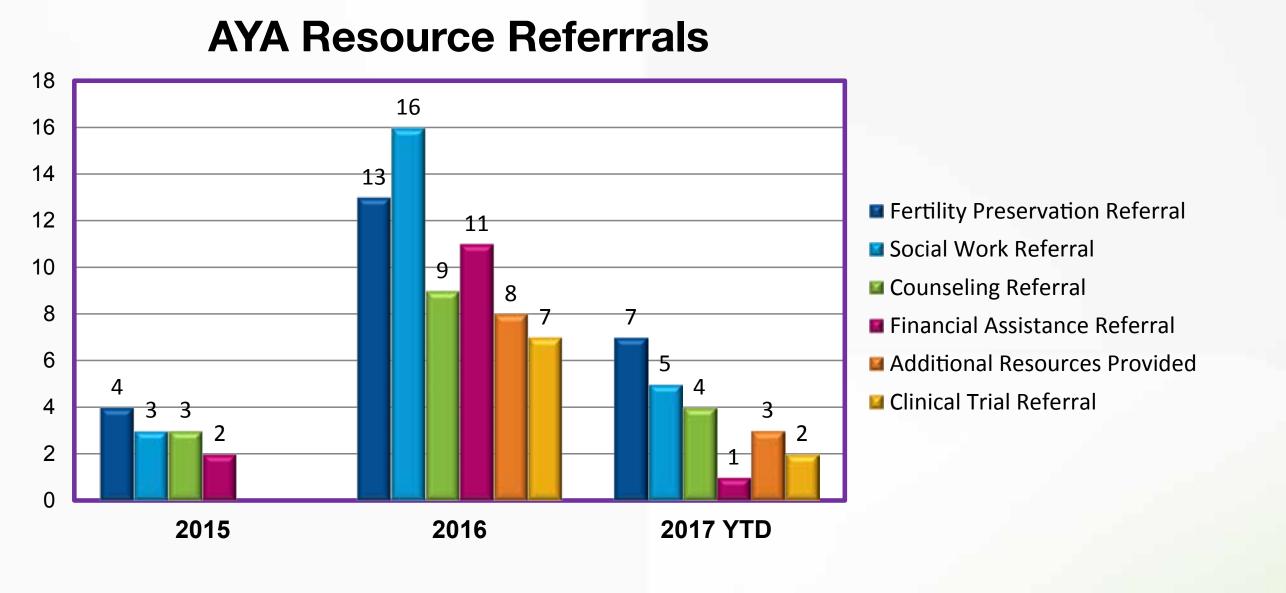
Discussion/Innovation

Delivering quality cancer care for the adolescent and young adult (AYA) is facilitated when the multidisciplinary team has increased awareness of the agerelated needs of this special population.

AYA Resource List

- Addresses AYA specific needs
- Provides short descriptions & links to organizations that provide assistance for:
 - SSI/SSD, Medicaid
 - Peer support
 - Financial Assistance
 - Fertility Services
 - Camps, Vacations, Retreats & more
- Is a resource for staff





610-402-CARE LVHN.org

