



Implementation of a Dedicated Surgical Oncology Clinic within VA – Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (VA-TVHS): A Multidisciplinary Quality Improvement Initiative



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Background

- Veterans Health Administration (VA) = largest integrated provider of cancer care in US
- Veterans have unique needs when faced with cancer diagnosis
- Many VA medical centers provide Surgical Oncology care within General Surgery clinics
 - High levels of trainee turnover
 - Lack of specialty-trained supervision

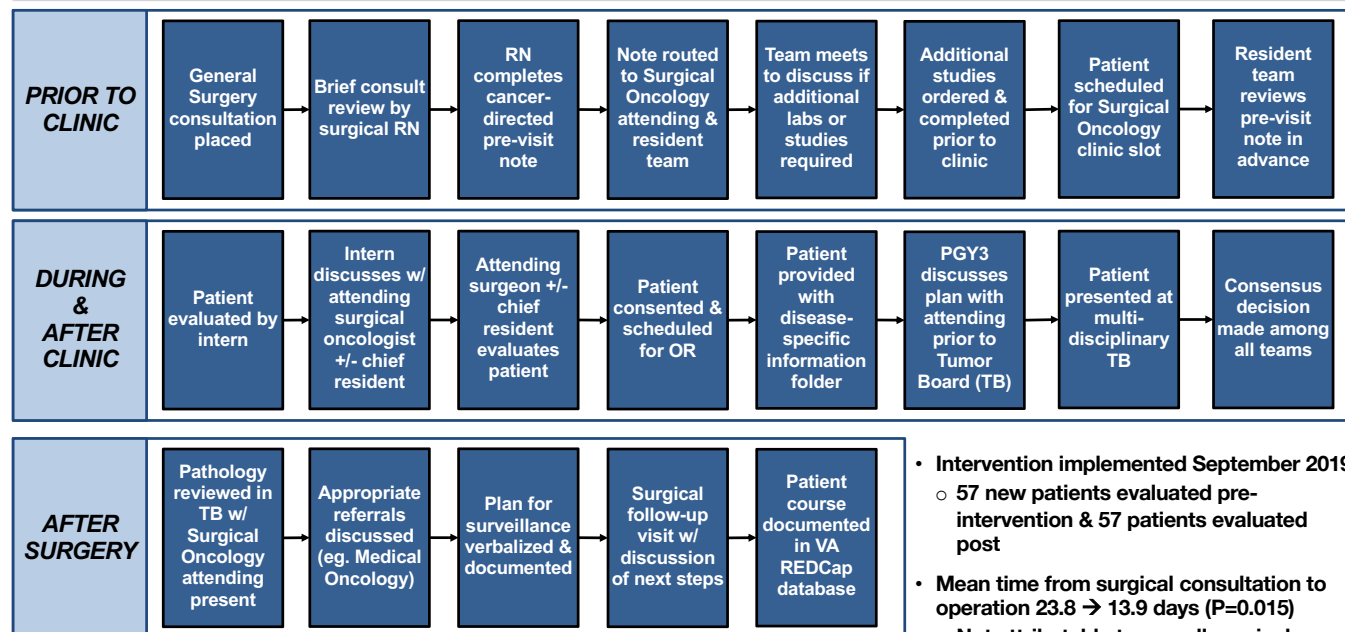
Aim

- Improve quality of surgical cancer care provided within resident-run clinic through creation of dedicated Surgical Oncology clinic within VA-TVHS

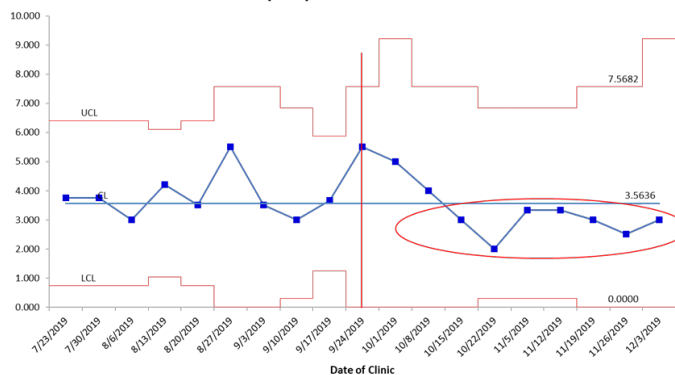
Methods

- Multidisciplinary quality improvement project created bundled intervention:
 1. Dedicated Surgical Oncology block time within VA General Surgery clinic
 2. Designated specialty-trained surgeon to attend clinic
 3. Created structured pre-visit review form to facilitate advanced review for coordinated visit
 4. Formulated clinical algorithms for most common cancers to serve as checklist for NCCN-concordant care & surveillance
- Primary quality outcome = mean time from surgical evaluation to resection
- Combination of statistical process control (SPC) charts and descriptive analysis used to track clinic progress & metrics

Results



Number of preoperative VA visits - u Chart



- Mean number of preoperative visits per operation also declined (3.76 pre- versus 3.46 post-intervention) with special cause signal detected

Conclusions & Future Directions

- Multidisciplinary quality improvement project can improve the timeliness and coordination of surgical cancer care at VA
- Future directions:
 - Continue to monitor efficiency and sustained improvement
 - Survey trainee satisfaction
 - Survey patient satisfaction