# *Multicancer Detection (MCD) Test Use for Cancer Screening in Primary Care: The Patient Perspective*

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# Disclosures

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No conflicts of interest to report.

# Primary Care Patient Perceptions of MCD Testing in a Health System

Myers RE, Hallman M, Shimada A, DiCarlo M, Davis K, Leach W, Jackson H, Indictor A, Chambers C. Primary Care Patient Interest in Multi-Cancer Early Detection in Cancer Screening. J. Pers. Med. 2023, 13, 1613. https://doi.org/10.3390/jpm13111613.

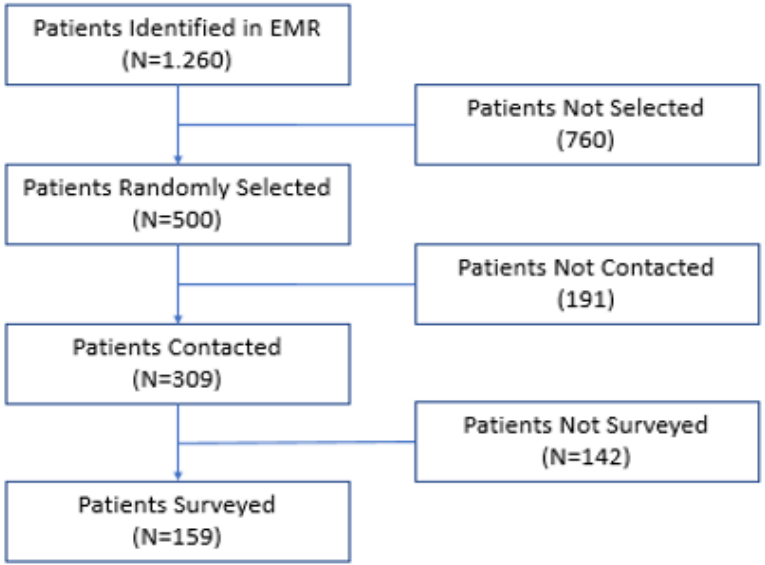
# Methods

- Our team conducted a prospective, observational study among primary care patients from 3 practices in Jefferson Health, a large, urban health system.
- Patients were contacted by telephone, consented, and asked to complete a survey (15-20 minutes) that briefly described a new MCD blood test being developed.
- The survey also included items to assess respondent background characteristics, perceptions about MCD testing, and interest in having an MCD test.
- Univariable and multivariable analyses were conducted to identify background characteristics and perceptions associated with patient interest in test use.

# Results: Survey Administration

- 1,260 patients were identified via the EMR across three practices
- 500 patients were randomly selected for contact
- 309 patients were contacted via telephone by a trained research coordinator
- 159 patients responded to the survey

**Figure 1.** Study Design.



# Methods (continued)

- At the beginning of the survey, a research coordinator followed a script to describe the following:
  - Standard of Care (SOC) cancer screening for breast, cervical, colorectal, and lung cancer is currently recommended by guidelines and is normally covered by insurance.
  - MCD testing would use a blood sample that is analyzed in a laboratory, and a positive (abnormal) MCD test result would be followed by a full-body CT scan.
  - MCD testing is still being evaluated in clinical trials, is not currently recommended as SOC in cancer screening guidelines and is not currently covered by insurance.

# Methods (continued)

- The survey included 14 items to assess respondent perceptions and attitudes related to cancer and having an MCD test for cancer screening (Preventive Health Model or PHM).
    - Cognitive (i.e., perceived salience, convenience, and response efficacy)
    - Affective (i.e., fears, worries and concerns plus perceived risk and susceptibility)
    - Social (i.e., provider support and influence)
- Study participants were asked to indicate their level of interest in having an MCD test now on a scale of 0-10 (0 = Extremely Low Interest and 10 = Extremely High Interest).

# Results: Background Characteristics

**Table 1.** Characteristics of Survey Respondents (N=159) and Non-respondents (N=341).

| | Respondents | | Non-respondents | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age (EMR) (yrs)**, mean (sd) | 64.4 | 7.9 | 64.7 | 8.1 |
| **Age (EMR) (yrs)**, n (%) | | | | |
| 50-59 | 45 | 28.3% | 107 | 31.4% |
| 60-69 | 65 | 40.9% | 129 | 37.8% |
| 70-80 | 49 | 30.8% | 105 | 30.8% |
| **Sex (EMR)**, n (%) | | | | |
| Female | 106 | 66.7% | 179 | 52.5% |
| Male | 53 | 33.3% | 162 | 47.59 |
| **Race/ethnicity (EMR)**, n (%) | | | | |
| White | 103 | 66.9% | 199 | 60.7% |
| African American | 42 | 27.3% | 105 | 32.0% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 7 | 4.5% | 13 | 4.0% |
| Asian | 2 | 1.3% | 11 | 3.4% |
| Other | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |

# Results: Background Characteristics

**Table 1.** Characteristics of Survey Respondents (N=159) and Non-respondents (N=341).

| | Respondents | | Non-respondents |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Marital status (SURVEY)**, n (%) | | | NA |
| Never married | 39 | 24.5% | |
| Separated/Divorced | 22 | 13.8% | |
| Widowed | 11 | 6.9% | |
| Married /Living as married | 87 | 54.7% | |
| **Education (SURVEY)**, n (%) | | | NA |
| High school degree/GED or less | 59 | 37.8% | |
| Associate's degree or some college | 23 | 14.7% | |
| College graduate and above | 74 | 47.4% | |

# Results: Perceptions About and Interest in MCD Testing

Table 2. Survey Results (N=159)

| | Respondents (N=159) | | Range and Reliability |
|---|---|---|---|
| Overall Score for PHM Items mean (sd) | 4.2 | (0.4) | Range=2.6-4.9. Alpha=0.54 |
| **Interest in MCD test, mean (sd)** | 8.4 | (2.1) | |
| **Interest in having an MCD test, n (%)** | | | Range=0-10, med =10 |
| Moderate (0-6) | 34 | (21.4%) | |
| High (7-10) | 125 | (78.6%) | |

# Conclusions

- When given limited information, patients had favorable perceptions of MCD importance, safety, and effectiveness and reported high interest in testing.
- Research is needed to assess patient perceptions and uptake when more complete and balanced information is provided:
  - Test effectiveness in finding early-stage cancer that can be cured
  - Impact of finding and treating early-stage disease on cancer mortality
  - Likelihood of having an abnormal test result
  - Diagnostic evaluation of abnormal test results
  - Management of false positive/negative results
  - Test use in concert with standard of care (SOC) screening
  - Out-of-pocket costs related to screening and diagnostic follow-up

# Limitations

- The study was conducted with primary care patients in only three practices of one health system and the survey response rate was low.
- Limited information on the attributes of MCD testing was provided to respondents.
- Participants were asked to share their views about the hypothetical scenario of having an MCD test if it were offered in the future.

# Recommendations

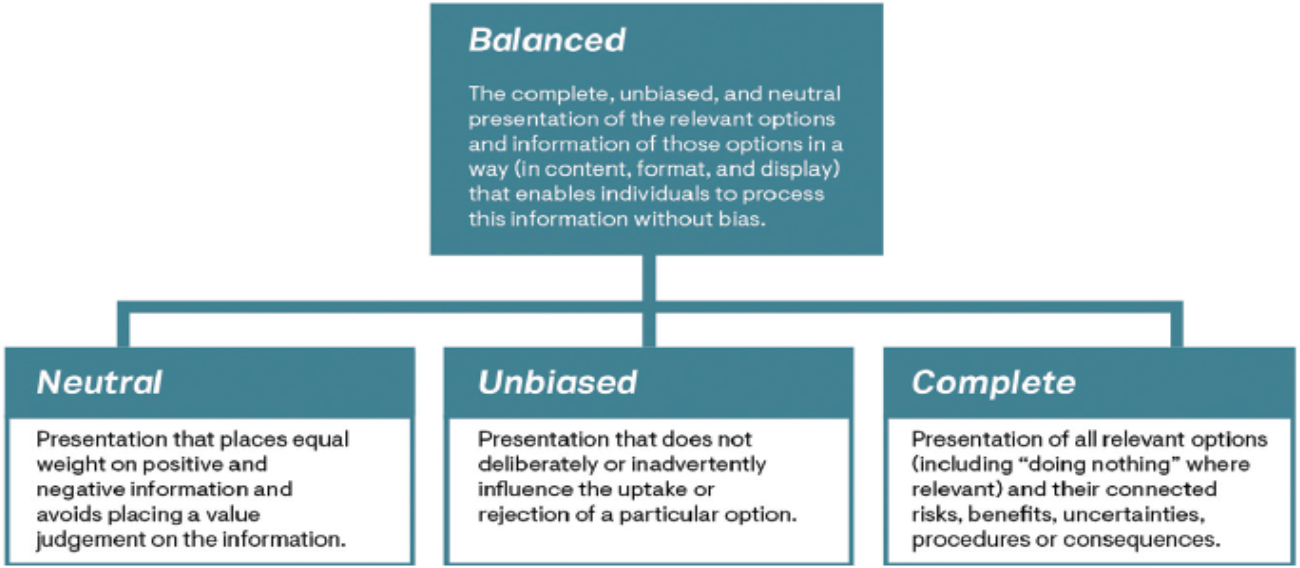
- Guidelines for MCD test use should recommend/mandate:
  - Shared decision making (SDM) about initial testing
  - Patient navigation through initial testing, diagnostic evaluation, treatment, and repeat testing
  - Coverage for testing, diagnostic evaluation, and treatment
- Research is needed to assess the impact of SDM and patient navigation on initial testing, diagnostic follow-up, repeat testing, and SOC screening in diverse populations (the Vanguard Study?)

# A Cautionary Tale: MCD Test Advertising

- The test is being provided as a way to add value to life
- Standard of care cancer screening tests can find only 5 cancers
- MCD testing can detect more than 50 types of cancer
- MCD testing increases the chance of finding cancer early
- MCD testing can reduce the cost of care
- MCD testing is being provided at no additional cost
- MCD test results will not be shared with your insurance carrier
- The quantity of MCD tests is limited

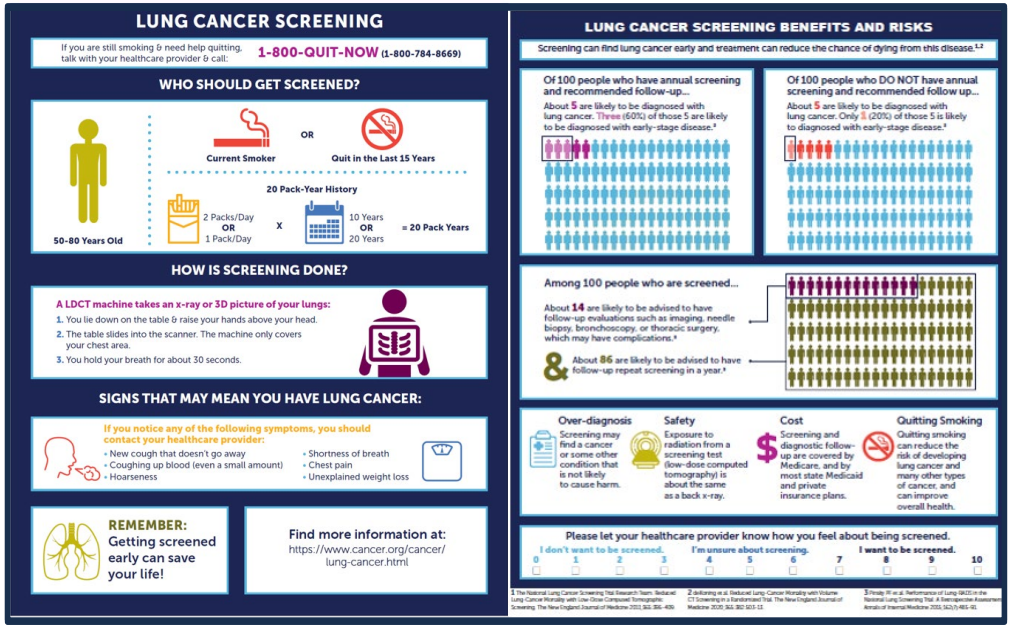
# Educational Content in Shared Decision Making

- International Patient Decision Aid Standards (IPDAS) for Patient Education Tools




(Martin et al., 2021)

# SDM Tools: A Patient Infographic

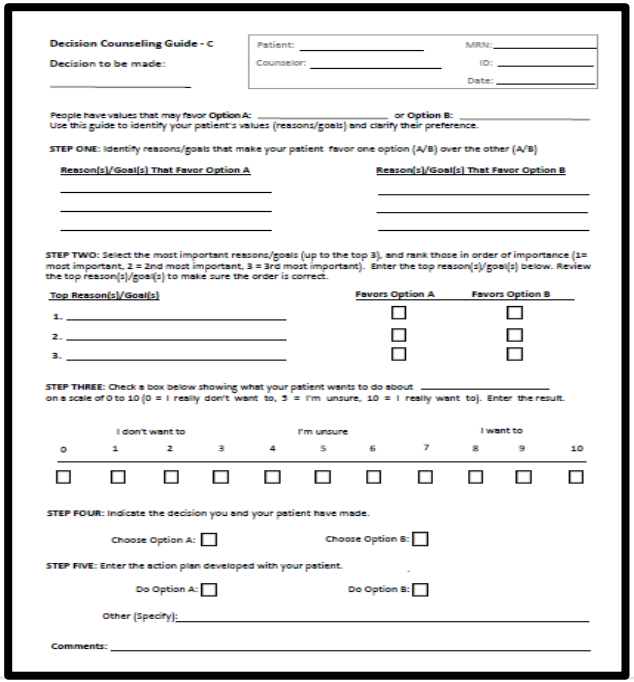


# Shared Decision Making and Decision Counseling

- SDM is a provider-patient conversation that involves:
  - Providing balanced information about available options
  - Guiding the patient through a personal values elicitation and preference clarification exercise and developing a preference-based action plan
- Decision counseling is a structured approach to engaging patients in an SDM conversation

(Emery, 2001; Myers, 2005; Elwyn et al., 2012)

# SDM Tools: A Decision Counseling Guide



**Decision Counseling Guide - C**

**Decision to be made:** _____

Patient: _____ MRN: _____

Counselor: _____ ID: _____

Date: _____

People have values that may favor Option A: _____ or Option B: _____
Use this guide to identify your patient's values (reasons/goals) and clarify their preference.

**STEP ONE:** Identify reasons/goals that make your patient favor one option (A/B) over the other (A/B)

| Reason(s)/Goal(s) That Favor Option A | Reason(s)/Goal(s) That Favor Option B |
|---|---|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

**STEP TWO:** Select the most important reasons/goals (up to the top 3), and rank those in order of importance (1= most important, 2 = 2nd most important, 3 = 3rd most important). Enter the top reason(s)/goal(s) below. Review the top reason(s)/goal(s) to make sure the order is correct.

| Top Reason(s)/Goal(s) | Favors Option A | Favors Option B |
|---|---|---|
| 1. _____ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2. _____ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3. _____ | ☐ | ☐ |

**STEP THREE:** Check a box below showing what your patient wants to do about _____ on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 = I really don't want to, 5 = I'm unsure, 10 = I really want to). Enter the result.

| I don't want to | | | | | I'm unsure | | | | I want to | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**STEP FOUR:** Indicate the decision you and your patient have made.

Choose Option A: ☐ Choose Option B: ☐

**STEP FIVE:** Enter the action plan developed with your patient.

Do Option A: ☐ Do Option B: ☐

Other (Specify): _____

Comments: _____

Use the QR code below:

# Shared Decision Making about MCD Testing

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