



Recurrent Prostate Cancer: A Decision Support Guide

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Abbreviated Abstract

The *Recurrent Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook*[®] CD-ROM will provide information and interactive tools to focus patient learning and promote informed treatment decision-making. HealthMark completed the Phase I project aims, demonstrating the feasibility of producing a multimedia tool that improves patients' knowledge and increases self-efficacy of treatment decision-making processes. In Phase II, HealthMark will produce the remainder of the product's information and interactive decision-support tools. A National Medical Review Board will review the CD-ROM for accuracy and patient appropriateness. A qualitative evaluation will use a series of case studies to assess recurrent prostate cancer patients' patterns of use and examine changes in patients' knowledge about treatment for recurrent prostate cancer.

Primary Investigator

Ann McFarren, RN
HealthMark Multimedia
Ph: 202-265-0033 x202
Fax: 202-448-6188
Email: amcfarren@healthmarkmultimedia.com;
Website: www.healthmarkmultimedia.com

Research Team & Affiliations

Ann McFarren, RN, Principal Investigator
Amelia Birney, MPH, CHES, Co-Project Director
Susan Brink, DrPH, Co-Project Director
HealthMark Multimedia

Total Budget

\$858,038

Research Objectives

AIMS

1. To produce the content and graphic elements.
2. To identify and develop additional interactive tools for the CD-ROM that support informed treatment decision making.
3. To produce the complete product, *Recurrent Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook*[®].
4. To test the effectiveness of the CD-ROM.
5. To implement *Recurrent Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook*[®] commercialization plans.

Theory/Hypothesis

The product evaluation focused on the research hypotheses that, compared with recurrent prostate cancer patients who use the *Recurrent Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook*[®] CD-ROM with information only, cancer patients who use the CD-ROM with both information and interactive tools will:



- Demonstrate equivalent gains in knowledge about treatment options, clinical trials, and self-care.
- Report increased self-efficacy in gathering information, clarifying values and preferences, and maintaining or restoring a sense of normalcy.
- Report reduced decision uncertainty.
- Report improved decision factors related to uncertainty.
- Report increased perceived decision effectiveness.

Experimental Design

After initial interview, the *Recurrent Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook*[®] CD-ROM, with a built-in usage-tracking device, was installed onto a participant's computer, and participants were asked to use the program on their own schedule over the next 7 weeks. After 7 weeks, a HealthMark staff member again visited the participant's home to retrieve the tracking data from the hard drive. One week later, a HealthMark staff person visited the participant's home for the final qualitative interview. The tracking data analysis is combined with open-ended questions about the use of and reactions to the CD-ROM in relation to any decision-making activities (e.g., doctor's appointments; activities related to information seeking, clarification of values or preferences, and/or retaining normalcy) during the study period as the basis for an extensive final qualitative interview.

Final Sample Size & Study Demographics

Men with advanced prostate cancer, 4 in total: an Asian male, age 61; an African American male, age 55; a Caucasian male, age 63; and a Caucasian male, age 82.

Data Collection Methods

Interviews, quantitative tracking of use patterns

Outcome Measures

Knowledge, self-efficacy, use patterns

Evaluation Methods

Interview responses were characterized.

Research Results

Only three cases used the CD-ROM for the entire study period and completed the final interview. Case #1 was the least impressed with the contents of the CD-ROM, including the personal stories, and reported that it offered nothing new or useful for him. The final interview with this subject was very short, due to his limited use of and dismissive opinion about the CD-ROM. The most dramatic effects of CD-ROM use on communication with doctors and level of decision-making involvement occurred with Case #2. Case #4 plans to use the CD-ROM in future interactions with doctors and treatment decisions and expressed an interest in promoting it to other men in his prostate cancer support group. Like Case #2, this subject valued the ability to easily return to information of interest. Thus, based on just the first three cases in this case series, it appears that the *Recurrent Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook*[®] CD-ROM meets many of the objectives it was designed to achieve.

Barriers & Solutions

Product(s) Developed from This Research

Recurrent Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook[®] Online continuing education