

Revitalising Cancer Care: The Impact of a New Online Training Programme for Healthcare Professionals in Malaysia

Suniza Jamaris¹, Lee Yew Kong¹, Khong Tak Loon¹, Pang Yong Kek¹, Christine Shamala Selvaraj¹, Teoh Li Ying¹, Ng Chong Guan¹, Nur Aishah Mohd Taib¹ on behalf of the UMMC Cancer Education Group

¹ Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

² Faculty of Education, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

The Malaysian National Cancer Registry reported an increase in late-stage presentations among the most prevalent cancers. One promising strategy to improve timely diagnosis is to train community-based general practitioners (GPs) on how to detect cancers early, as they are closer to the community. A 15-week online training programme for GPs on Malaysia's five most prevalent cancers (breast, colorectal, lung, cervical, and prostate cancers) was developed to improve GPs' knowledge and practise on early cancer screening and diagnosis.

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the effectiveness of the online module on GPs' knowledge and intention to change practice for early cancer screening and diagnosis

METHODS AND MATERIALS

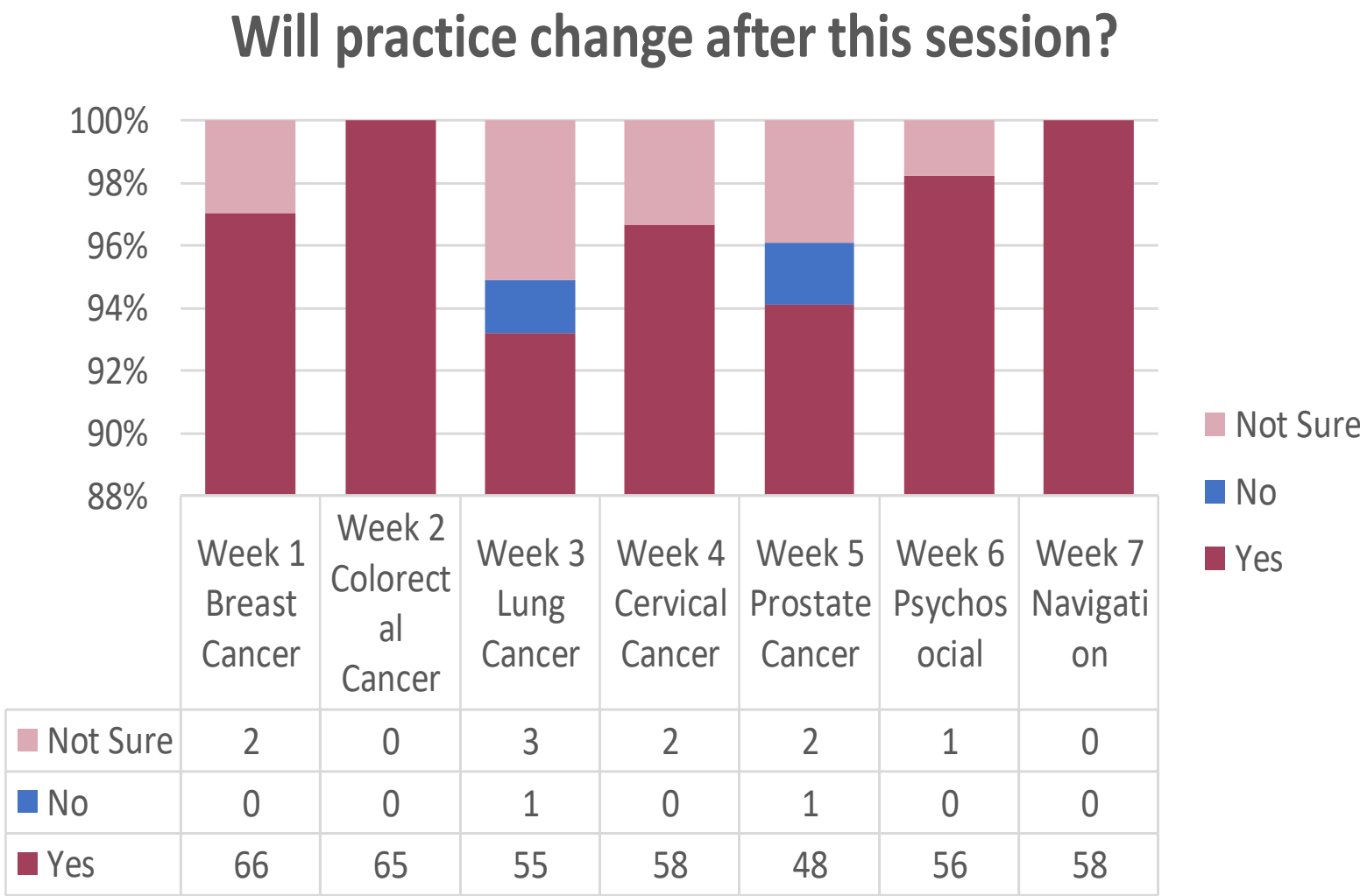
The study was conducted in March–June 2023 with 97 registered participants. The course was self-paced, with a live ECHO® Zoom session for the introduction and closing sessions. A survey was administered before and after the modules to test knowledge about early cancer diagnosis and hypothetical changes in practise after each module. The participant's completion rate was also evaluated in this study. The completion rate was measured by analysing the number of participants who successfully finished all tasks and questionnaires. This evaluation provided valuable insights into the level of engagement and commitment shown by the participants throughout the study.

RESULTS

Completion rate = 71.1% (69/97)

Characteristics	Results (n = 69)
Median age (years)	38 (28 – 72)
Gender, n (%)	
Male	16 (23. 2%)
Female	53 (76.8%)
Place of practice, n (%)	
Government	48 (69.6%)
Community Clinic	
- Family Medicine Specialist	9
- Medical Officer	39
Independent practice	21 (30.4%)

Results	Pre-course knowledge score, (x/16 points), n = 54	Post-course knowledge score, (x/16 points), n = 55
Median (Range)	8(4 – 16)	12(5 – 16)



CONCLUSION

The online course had a positive impact on cancer knowledge, leading to a high percentage of GPs reporting an intention to change their cancer and early diagnosis practices. The study also revealed a moderate completion rate among participants. It is recommended that further research be conducted to explore ways to increase participation and completion rates in online courses for healthcare professionals.

REFERENCES

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