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Timing is Key: Expediting Radiation Therapy after Definitive Surgery for Head and Neck Cancer

Beverly Garber, MSN, ANP-C, CORLN[1]
Marianne Abouyared, MD[1]
Shyam Rao, MD[2]
Debra Burgess, BSN, MHA, CSSGB[2]
Melissa Soderlund, MSN, OCN[2]
Evan Graboyes, MD[3]

UC Davis Health Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery[1]
UC Davis Health Comprehensive Cancer Center[2]
Medical University of South Carolina[3]

ACS Cancer Programs
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Disclosures

- **No Financial Disclosures**
- **Board of Directors, Head and Neck Cancer Alliance**

Background: Head and Neck Cancer

- **Seventh most common cancer in the world**
- **Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is most common pathology**
- **Advanced stage disease requires multimodal treatment**
- **Delays in treatment lead to poorer survival outcomes**
- **ACS CoC released HadjRT quality metric related to head and neck cancer January 2022, added to RCRS accreditation standard 7.1**

Purpose

Definitive surgical resection

6 weeks
(≤ 42 days)

Post-Operative Radiation Therapy (PORT)

Methods

UC Davis Health

Head and Neck Cancer

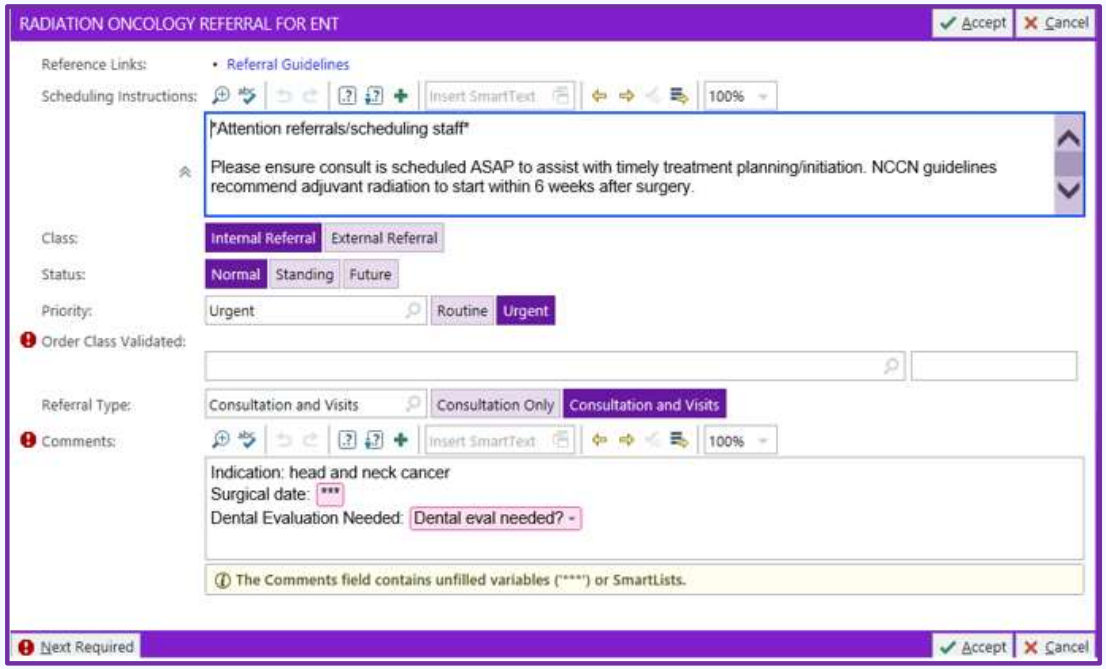
Definitive Surgery

Referrals to Radiation Oncology

Start of Adjuvant PORT

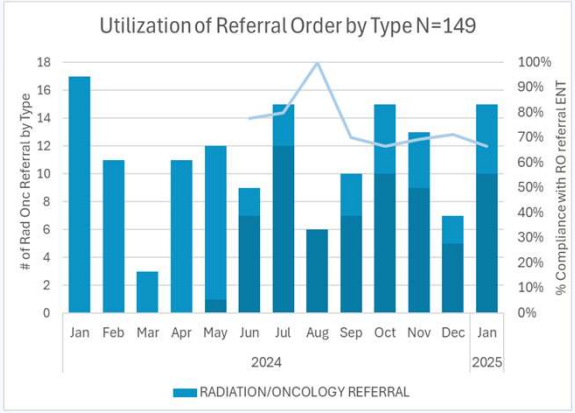
Implementation

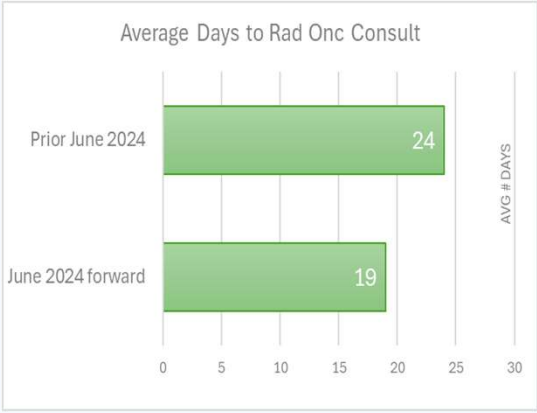
- **Creation of EPIC® electronic health record enhanced "Radiation Oncology Referral for ENT" order tool**
- **Educate providers and staff about enhanced order tool and time to PORT to facilitate compliance in use of the tool**
- **Implemented 6/1/2024**
  - **assess compliance of order tool use**
  - **evaluate intervention goals to improve time to PORT within 6 weeks compared to baseline.**

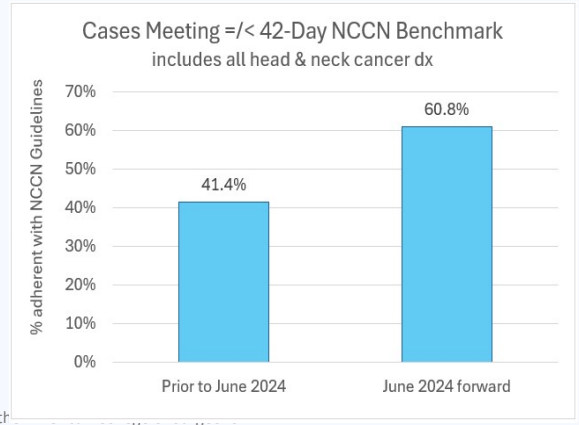


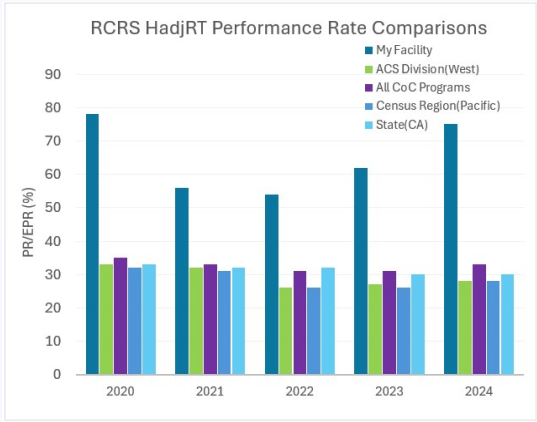
Results

- **73.3% adoption using the new EPIC® Radiation Oncology referral**
- **5-day reduction in average days from referral order date to radiation oncology consult**
- **19.4% improvement meeting NCCN guidelines for all patients with head and neck cancer.**
- **Outcomes with ACS CoC HadjRT quality measure improved 12% based on available RCRS data**



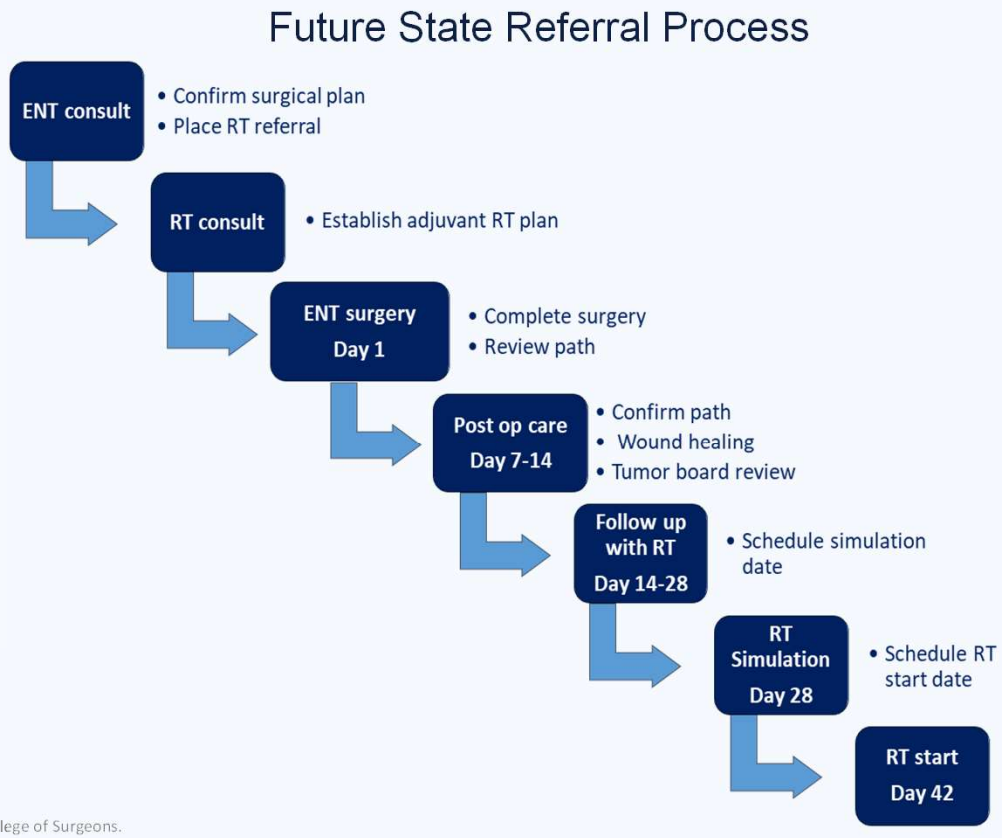






Conclusion

- **Early and efficient referral processes assist in reducing delays in starting PORT**
- **Utilizing an EPIC® enhanced radiation oncology referral order, combined with education and new referral workflow, improved NCCN guideline adherence for the head and neck cancer population.**
- **Promising improvement in outcomes with ACS CoC HadjRT quality measure.**



References available upon request

Contact Information: Beverly Garber - bgarber@ucdavis.edu