**AccessHope’s expert reviews show positive clinical and cost impacts on lung cancer cases**

**The organization**
AccessHope offers an employer-paid benefit of cancer support services. Employees and families can utilize these services to send their cancer cases to AccessHope's multidisciplinary specialists with National Cancer Institute (NCI)–Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers. These subspecialists then provide insights that the employee or family member’s community doctor may use to optimize their treatment plans for the best-possible outcomes.

**The cancer cases**
The cases that AccessHope receives can be requested by employees or automatically triggered when an employee receives a complex- or rare-cancer diagnosis with a challenging prognosis. From April 2019 to November 2020 (during the COVID-19 pandemic), the company received 110 cases specifically for lung cancer.

- 85% of the cases were from community-based oncologists
- 55% and 45% and their median age was 62.5
- 18% were never smokers
- 57% were past smokers
- 26% were current smokers
- 1% were unclassified, which reflected the medical oncology clinic population

**The expert reviews**
For each case, AccessHope's subspecialist leveraged leading subspecialty expertise to develop a report with commentary on the prior workup and therapies as well as the current treatment. The report also included suggestions for any potential changes in management and future options. The subspecialist then sent the report to the community doctor and encouraged them to engage in a collegial collaboration on the recommendations. Meanwhile, their patient continued to receive care close to home.
The positive impacts
AccessHope’s subspecialist agreed completely with the community oncologist’s treatment plan, offering no additional recommendations, in only 7% of cases.

In 93% of cases, the subspecialist provided evidence-based recommendations for current or subsequent care while proactively engaging the community doctor in a collegial collaboration to discuss the case review. Of the 93% of cases:

- **28% included significant changes to the treatment plans**, when the subspecialist disagreed with the current management based on available clinical evidence
- **65% included more-modest refinements to treatment plans**, including subsequent treatments, supportive care interventions, and other plan details based on available clinical evidence

The recommendations were associated with clinical outcomes such as improving efficacy, reducing toxicity, and enhancing care.

AccessHope also identified low-value interventions that could be eliminated, such as surveillance with serial PET/CT scans or costly treatments with no anticipated benefit. In these cases, the recommendations saved an average of nearly $150K per case. Across the entire population of cases reviewed, the recommendations saved an average of more than $19K per patient.

The peer-reviewed medical journal JCO Oncology Practice published the study online and will publish it in print early 2022—validating AccessHope’s remote model of expert case reviews.¹

References

Fighting cancer with everything we know™
Unlock access to renowned cancer expertise from National Cancer Institute–Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers through AccessHope. A key for community-based oncologists to groundbreaking insights and leading discoveries, we help close the cancer knowledge gap by providing employers the benefit of cancer support services for their employees living with cancer, wherever they call home.

Visit myaccesshope.org to learn more.

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