BACKGROUND

• Physician reporting has been a challenge in most registries if not in all. Puerto Rico is no exception.
• For years, the registrars of the Puerto Rico Central Cancer Registry (PRCCR) have done all the abstracts of physician cases based on pathology reports only. As an example, for the diagnosis year 2011, PRCCR registrars abstracted 76.7% of physician only cases. Of these cases a 51.8% were from urologists. The production of this amount of abstracts every year takes a great amount of time and effort from the registrants.
• Even though we count these abstracts in our incidence case file, a considerable amount of missing information remains such as stage and first course treatment. For this reason the PRCCR is focused on improving: (1) the timeliness of reporting, and (2) the quality of the reported information.
• The Urologists Recovering Project, described in this poster, is an example of our efforts to improve the quality of the data from those abstracts based on pathology reports only.
• Urologists have the particularity that they evaluate, diagnose, and eventually treat patients at their own office. Since patients that visit an urologist often don’t go to a hospital to receive treatment, a significant number of cases remain with essential diagnosis information unknown.

PURPOSE

• To recover essential diagnosis and treatment information from urologists in order to improve the quality of the abstracts generated as “physician only”.
• To decrease the percentage of cases with unknown stage and first course treatment information.

METHODS

• After initial contact, an exclusive encrypted list of patients was created in EXCEL for each urologist and was sent through email. Urologists were prompted to call us to receive the password to open the list. A few urologists that lack resources to access information electronically, including the encrypted list, asked us to send the list to their personal office fax.
• A single page reporting form document was created to collect information of socio-demographic variables, cancer identification variables, first course treatment, and date of last contact in order to improve the quality of the abstract generated by pathology only and to decrease the amount of unknown information.
• Recovered reporting forms were uploaded to PathPlus and the information was updated in the database following standard procedures.
• The data was extracted using Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio 2008 and analysis were performed using Stata 11.2.

RESULTS

• Cancer cases in the recovery project included the following primary categories: male genital organs, kidney and renal pelvis, ureter, and bladder cancer.
• A total of 56 urologists with private practice were contacted in order to access information about 1,193 cases. Response outcomes was as follow: 67.2% fully responded, 6.9% partially responded, 12.1% refused to participate and 13.8% never responded.
• Information recovered accounted a 61.0% of all the physician (urologists) only cases in 2011 (Figure 1).
• Overall, information about stage improved in a 13.7%. Unknown stage of disease was reduced from 31.0% to 18.0% (Figure 2).
• Information recovered in the first course treatment variables ranged from a 2.3% to 31.3% (Figure 3).
• Unknown information was significantly improved for the treatment variables (Figure 4).

DISCUSSION

• Less than 20.0% of physicians in PR have an electronic medical record and urologists were no exception. Even though, most of them had electronic resources, they still lack the capacity to report electronically to the PRCCR and all the information arrived via our secured fax system.
• This project has helped the PRCCR to understand that different approaches are needed in order to increase the reporting of cases by urologists.
• Urologists that participated in the project said that they have a busy practice and were understaffed. They commented that it was difficult for them to comply with the stipulated time for the delivery of cases.
• Even though the reporting of cancer cases is mandatory by law in Puerto Rico, more education and promotion of the PRCCR labor is needed to attract the reporting of cases by urologists as well as other physician.
• This project also helped us recover valuable information about stage and first course treatment that otherwise would have been missing if urologists were not contacted.
• After this project, the PRCCR is participating in different medical conferences in order to promote the reporting of cases. The PRCCR is also sending letters to physicians with more than 20 cases to educate them about the law and to encourage them to report their cases on time.

DISCLAIMER

The collection of cancer-incidence data was supported, in part, by the National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention by the Puerto Rico Central Cancer Registry as part of the statewide cancer reporting program mandated by the Puerto Rico State Law No. 28 of March 20, 1951, and Law No. 113 of July 30, 2010 (Law of the Puerto Rico Central Cancer Registry).