

# Improving Patient Health Literacy for Oncology Patients Initiating Chemotherapy Treatment

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- Only 12% of adults in the United States possess proficient health literacy skills<sup>1</sup>.
- Poor health literacy makes it difficult for patients with cancer to navigate the health system and understand rapidly evolving cancer therapies.
- Novel approaches to increase patient health literacy may lead to improved patient-provider communication, patient understanding, and patient experience.



- Observational study
- Patient population: Patients with cancer beginning chemotherapy treatment.
- Intervention: Patients distributed study flyer containing QR code and URL for Qualtrics survey. Participants complete a demographic survey, pre-video survey, educational video on various cancer therapies, and post-video survey. Pre- and post-video surveys are the same and assess participants' understanding of common cancer therapies.
- Main Outcome Measure: Results from the pre-video and post-video surveys are assessed and compared to determine the gain in knowledge of cancer therapies, if any, from the educational video.

- Limited data; 22 participants completed pre-video survey and 16 participants completed post-video survey.
- Positive trend in % correct of survey questions post-video.

	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5
Pre-Video	81.8% (18/22)	86.4% (19/22)	95.5% (21/22)	86.4% (19/22)	86.4% (19/22)
Post-Video	93.8% (15/16)	93.8% (15/16)	100% (16/16)	93.8% (15/16)	100% (16/16)
% change	+14.7%	+8.6%	+4.7%	+8.6%	+15.7%



- Implementation of an educational video regarding cancer therapies may lead to an increase in patient knowledge; however, more data must be collected to increase the significance and power of the early results.
- Improving health literacy for patients with newly diagnosed cancer who are initiating treatment has the potential to improve patient adherence, experience, and health outcomes.
- If this study continues to demonstrate positive results, the goal is to expand the accessibility of this educational tool to other oncology clinics within the ECU Health system.

1. General, Office of the Surgeon. “Health Literacy Reports and Publications.” *HHS.gov*, 4 Aug. 2022, <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/health-literacy/index.html>.