



EP17.20: Specialist disease manager-based integrated care for lung cancer in China: national implementation and future perspectives



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INTRODUCTION

Owing to ongoing advances in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques, pulmonary nodules and lung cancer are gradually entering an era of chronic disease management. West China Hospital, Sichuan University, took the lead in establishing specialist disease manager positions and has developed an integrated, full-cycle medical care model and ensures continuous follow-up under the principle of “no interruption of care after discharge.”

This study aims to comprehensively assess the current implementation of intergrated management for pulmonary nodules and lung cancer in China, synthesize scalable practical experiences, identify existing challenges, and prospectively explore future optimization strategies to provide evidence-based guidance for the standardized and homogeneous development of the disease management coordinator system.

METHODS

Design:

A questionnaire survey was conducted. Items were developed by experts from the Multidisciplinary Team of the Lung Cancer Center at West China Hospital based on clinical practice and prior literature and were subsequently reviewed and revised by clinical specialists from multiple hospitals nationwide. The instrument demonstrated strong reliability and content validity (S-CVI > 0.94). Respondents comprised medical and administrative personnel from hospitals at various levels across China, ensuring satisfactory sample representativeness.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Actionable Take Away Message

The value of intergrated management for lung cancer patients in enhancing care satisfaction and reducing financial burden is widely recognized by physicians, nurses, and healthcare administrators. Experience at West China Hospital indicates that an intelligent platform led by specialist disease management coordinators and leveraging “Internet Plus” and artificial intelligence technologies can deliver a closed-loop system spanning screening to follow-up, offering a replicable “Chinese experience.”

Future Direction for Research

Consequently, deployment of specialist disease management coordinators constitutes a critical advance for achieving intergrated closed-loop management, while informatics infrastructure is a central enabler of management efficiency; these elements should be advanced concurrently. This survey offers an initial overview of the implementation landscape and principal challenges of full-cycle management in China; future longitudinal follow-up and outcome evaluation studies are warranted to generate stronger evidence to inform policy and clinical practice.

REFERENCES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Generative AI tools were utilized in the preparation of this presentation to assist with English language polishing and the conceptual graphic layout/data visualization of the results infographic. All clinical concepts, study design, data collection, statistical analyses, and final scientific interpretations were independently conceived, conducted, reviewed, and verified by the authors. The authors take full responsibility for the integrity, accuracy, and scientific validity of the presented content.

RESULTS

1. High Engagement & Broad Clinical Representation

- Response Rate: 311 / 400 valid surveys returned (77.8% response rate).
- Professional Diversity: 91.0% clinical staff (physicians, nurses, technicians, admin); ~3.0% held managerial positions.
- Current Adoption: ~50% actively implementing; 21.5% in preparation.

2. Overwhelming Support vs. Execution Deficit

- High Willingness & Value: >97% willing to participate, affirming benefits in satisfaction, adherence, and financial relief.
- Implementation Gap: >50% judged current penetration to be inadequate.
- Top Barriers: Shortage of dedicated full-time staff, limited institutional support, and coordination friction.

3. Critical Bottlenecks & Multi-Resource Constraints

Co-occurring Constraints: ~70% reported a "triple bottleneck" simultaneously:

- Insufficient staff & materials
- Lack of specialized IT/information systems
- Low clinical engagement

4. Actionable Call: Urgently prioritize technical/IT integration and incentive/performance mechanisms to drive scale-up.

Results: Multidimensional Survey on Integrated Management of Lung Cancer

