

## **Genetic Counselors' Comfort and Knowledge of Cancer Risk Assessment for Transgender Patients**

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Transgender individuals are often their own health advocates, especially if seeking hormone therapies and gender-affirmation surgeries. When medical providers lack an understanding of transgender health issues, transgender patients are put in the position of educating their providers. This study assessed whether the impacts of hormonal and surgical therapies on cancer risks are being incorporated into cancer genetic counseling sessions with transgender patients. While there is literature in the genetic counseling field that explores the relationship between genetic counselors and lesbian, gay, and bisexual patients, there is a gap in research that directly addresses how cancer genetic counselors interact with transgender patients. A survey was conducted to assess cancer genetic counselors' education, knowledge, and comfort with transgender health issues. The survey evaluated relevant vocabulary terms and open-ended written case vignettes to approximate how cancer genetic counselors would facilitate conversations with transgender patients about cancer risks. A majority of participants (91%) endorsed wanting more education on transgender implications for cancer risk assessment with some participants (12%) reporting their discomfort asking about gender pronouns. There was an overall lack of consensus on discussing breast cancer screening based on estrogen therapy, pedigree symbol use, and testing of a minor prior to hormone therapy.