Thyroid Cancer Survivors’ Preferences for Alternative Models of Follow-Up Care using eHealth Technologies: A cross-sectional survey

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Cancer Care, Survivorship, Pain Control and Palliative Care
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Objectives:
1. Preferences for follow-up care
2. Internet and social media use

Methods: Cross-sectional survey

Inclusion Criteria
a. Well-differentiated cancer
b. Completed treatment
c. Read/ speak English

Response Rate

Approached N=252
Agreed N=220 (87%)
Completed N=202 (80%)

Respondents
- Middle age (50.1 years)
- 3.6 years post-diagnosis
- Female (63.7%)
- Canadian born (60%)
- College/ Uni (80.3%)

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Preferences for Follow-Up

- Majority prefer specialist or shared care
- More would be satisfied with specialist video/email than GP follow-up alone

Factors Associated with Video Follow-Up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Video p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First language</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis</td>
<td>0.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Internet use</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Patients farther from diagnosis or who used the Internet were more likely to be satisfied with video follow-up
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Internet and Social Media Use
- 85% used Internet to seek thyroid cancer information
- 27% used online communities to seek peer support

Reasons for not using online communities

- Main reasons for non-use were lack of awareness and perceived need, not technical barriers

Conclusions
- Thyroid cancer survivors want specialist involvement in their follow-up care
- More would be satisfied with technology-assisted follow-up than primary care alone
- Video-conferencing appears more viable than email
- Online communities could serve as an additional source of support for many thyroid cancer survivors