

Improving metastatic breast cancer care in Kenya using information technology



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"I applied for this grant because I saw an opportunity to address issues of an often ignored community of breast cancer population for whom a lot can be done on grass root level, especially in resource constrained countries like Kenya."



Read more on the SPARC MBC Challenge at uicc.org/SPARC

Short description

Development of an online web-based interactive forum and a mobile app especially tailored for Kenyan women living with metastatic breast cancer.

Abstract

Death from breast cancer in African countries remains disproportionately high, as up to 75% of patients present with late stage disease. Many women with MBC suffer from isolation and do not receive guidance for their psychosocial and medical needs. Online support is one of the evidence-based preferred methods of support desired by women living with cancer. Online forums remain an untapped, under-utilised resource for enhancement of quality of life and addressing issues affecting women with MBC.

We will develop an online web based interactive forum and a mobile app specially tailored for Kenyan women with MBC. As Kenya has a high percentage of literate females and the highest usage and access to the internet in Sub-Saharan Africa, this is a unique opportunity to reach out to a significant number of patients with MBC using an inexpensive resource to interact, access psycho-social support, address stigmas, seek relevant clinical information, find links to the nearest healthcare facilities, download helpful information and participate in support group activities in a culturally appropriate and sensitive way. The programme has the potential of being scaled up and may also help other regions to develop the same suited to their own unique needs.

Focus areas

Patient navigation

Stakeholders

Patients



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