

## Abstract

### 'Act on Oncology' as a New Comprehensive Approach to Assess Prostate Cancer Centres - Method Description and Results of a Pilot Study

Voigt, W ; Hoellthaler, J ; Magnani, T ; Corrao, V ; Valdagni, R *Plos One*, 2014 Sep 5, Vol.9(9), Siemens Healthineers

**Introduction:** A pilot study looking into multidisciplinary care for a prostate cancer unit was conducted by 'Act on Oncology' (AoO) in Europe. The study was focused on identifying opportunities for process improvement, operational process quality and efficiency.

**Background:** The number of cancer centers offering multidisciplinary care of prostate cancer is growing and requires the optimization of operational and medical processes.

**Objective:** To develop a standardized and operational tool with the ability to implement multidisciplinary care while improving efficiency and process quality.

**Design:** Information for developing a model was gathered from clinical guidelines, medical experts, scientific literature and best practice elements from renowned cancer centers. The data used was organized into categories, process areas, and criteria. An assessment of compliance with requirements was conducted using on-site surveys that covered all key management and clinical processes. Recommended improvements were based on comparing against best practice standards.

**Limitations:** An observation was made on several best practice elements related to multidisciplinary clinics and advanced organizational measures. As first steps for improvement, the center evaluated and formalized the organization of the prostate cancer unit. The center used defined clinical activities and personnel assignments with a formal agreement being worked on.

**Conclusions:** In this pilot study, the AoO approach was able to identify opportunities for process improvements and measures were derived that could increase operational process quality and efficiency.