

**Pilot implementation of a patient-centered e-health platform in gynecological cancer care**

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**Background.**

Enhanced population health is increasingly supported by eHealth solutions. When implementing new technologies for patients, health professionals can play a key role in guiding adoption. We conducted a pilot study to explore a promising mobile health application called BELONG with interactive, professional, community and peer support features.

**Methods.**

The study used a mixed-method design to explore the perspectives of health-care providers (n=8), patient representatives (n=3) and an experienced volunteer (n=1) from the division of Gynecologic Oncology at the Segal Cancer Centre of the Jewish General Hospital, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Participants reviewed BELONG for one week, then took part in a focus group. They were asked their impressions on the layout, features, functionality and suggestions for improvement. Discussions were 50 to 60 minutes, audio-recorded, and transcribed verbatim. Changes were made based on feedback received. The same participants interacted with BELONG once again, for two weeks, after which, a second focus group took place to examine acceptability and usability. Questions were developed based of the Glasgow et al. (1999) RE-AIM framework of Reach, Efficacy, Adoption, Implementation and Maintenance to evaluate health interventions.

**Results.**

Feedback indicates that BELONG is highly relevant and fills a gap in the cancer care landscape. Issues such as potential misinformation and non-medical advice among peers arose and lead clearer distinctions between BELONG's validated information from professionals versus ideas expressed by peers as well as an additional disclaimer. The majority of health-care providers saw tangible patient benefits with BELONG use, identified patients under active treatment as those likely to benefit the most and expressed interest in assisting with recruitment for later phases of the study.

**Conclusion.**

Insights from the perspectives of multiple stakeholders including clinicians and patients into machine learning can optimize implementation in clinical settings. These insights are essential to enact the full potential of eHealth solutions.