

Prostate Cancer Journal Club #ProstateJC on Twitter: One-Year Experience

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Background: Journal clubs are an important forum for critical discussion and dissemination of new research, and numerous Twitter-based journal clubs have been developed in different disciplines. In February 2017, we started a Twitter-based prostate cancer journal club indexed as #prostatejc, which discusses a new paper about prostate cancer each month. Our objective is to report on the initial 12 month experience of #prostatejc.

Methods: Metrics for monthly journal club participation were calculated using the Symplur platform, including the number of unique contributors, tweets, and impressions (potential reach). Manual content analysis was performed to assess for the presence of commercial bias in the tweets and to classify the content of each tweet as either informative, non-informative, or administrative. We also classified each contributor to the discussion based on their profession, level of training, and geography using their Twitter biography supplemented by web searches.

Results: Journal clubs covered a wide range of topics, including epidemiology, genetics, staging, localized and advanced disease. For each monthly journal club, the total number of participants ranged from 33-88 with 114-267 tweets, and a potential reach of 110,237-924,155. The greatest overall participation was for an article on 177Lu-PSMA radioligand therapy in advanced prostate cancer, and the largest total reach was for the discussion about a consensus conference on prostate cancer genetics. The majority of tweet content was informative (78%), with 11% administrative and 11% non-informative. None of the tweets had apparent commercial bias. Participants were mostly physicians (64%) or scientists (18%), although there were also contributions from members of professional societies, advocacy groups, and patients/caregivers. Approximately 2/3 of contributors were from the United States, and 1/3 from other countries. Among physician contributors, urology (29%) and medical oncology (25%) represented the largest proportion; however, several other disciplines were represented including radiation oncology, radiology, pathology and allied health. Contributors also had a wide range of academic positions spanning from trainees to senior faculty.

Conclusions: The #prostatejc provides a global platform for timely discussion of cutting-edge articles about prostate cancer. The journal club is still ongoing, and we encourage everyone in the Prostate Cancer Foundation community to join the discussion.

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