

Beyond Genetic Testing: The Impact of Nurse Case Management in Hereditary Cancer Surveillance

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Introduction. Hereditary cancer risk requires long-term surveillance integrating genetic information with coordinated multidisciplinary care. After disclosure of a positive genetic test, patients are managed by a Nurse Case Manager (NCM), who coordinates the surveillance pathway, schedules and monitors follow-up examinations, and provides education on surveillance and preventive strategies. The NCM facilitates communication within the multidisciplinary team and supports patients and families in informed decision-making through a structured follow-up model.

Methods. A retrospective descriptive evaluation of the hereditary cancer surveillance program was conducted at the High Risk Center of the European Institute of Oncology. Program data from 2018, when the NCM role was introduced, to 2026 were analyzed, including the number of individuals in active surveillance and program retention.

Results. Individuals enrolled in surveillance increased from 559 to 1,647. During this period, 72 patients discontinued the program by personal choice, mainly to continue surveillance closer to home, while 48 died. The implementation of nurse case management supported surveillance continuity and strengthened coordination of follow-up care.

Discussion. Nurse case management is a key component in optimizing hereditary cancer surveillance, improving adherence, continuity of care, and multidisciplinary coordination.

Keywords: Nursing Case Management, High-Risk Surveillance, Genetic Counseling, Continuity of Care

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