

ECONOMICS OF GENOMICS

Mary Lou Smith

Research Advocacy Network

Advancing Patient-Focused Research

What Patients Want

- Patients faced with a life-threatening diagnosis want the treatment that will give them the best chance of surviving and thriving
- They need greater certainty in making their treatment decisions

Issue 1

- Patients ask:
 - Will I get the benefit?
 - Will I not get the benefit but get the toxicity?
 - Will I get both or will I get neither?
 - Is there a test that will give me that information?
 - Will my doctor order the test, order the test but not use it, order the test and use it correctly? Order the test and use it incorrectly?
- Will genomics give them information to choose the **best** treatment for them?

Issue 2

- We know the doctor plays a tremendous role in patient decision-making.
- Will my doctor offer me options?
 - A patient only has a choice to make if they know their options
 - Is there time in the patient/doctor visit for a discussion about options? Is there time in the patient/doctor visit for a balanced discussion about benefits and side effects?
 - Are there incentives in the system for doctors to offer choices to patients?

Research Needed

- We need research on how information from genomic tests will be used by patients.
- The research we have done using conjoint analysis¹ tells us:
 - Benefit matters more than toxicity. (We define *matters* as influencing the treatment decision.)
 - The higher the benefit the more likely the patient is to choose treatment.
 - The higher the toxicity the less likely a patient is to choose the treatment.
 - Severity and duration affect choice.
- What tests matter and what tests are not beneficial?
- What factors will allow a patient to make an informed decision?

¹Smith, M. L., White, C. B., Railey, E., Storniolo, A. M., & Sledge, G.W. Examining patient choices for metastatic breast cancer drugs. *J Clin Oncol* 30, 2012 (suppl; abstr 6053)