



Wearable, Mobile and Remote Monitoring Technologies in Oncology: Current Evidence and Future Opportunities

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The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
NATIONAL CANCER POLICY FORUM

Opportunities and Challenges for Using Digital Health Applications in Oncology

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#NatlCancerForum

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson
~~Cancer~~ Center
Making Cancer History®

Wearable, mobile and remote monitoring for health



Smartwatch



Activity and sleep monitor



Virtual assistant



UV exposure monitor



Stickers/tattoos



Blood pressure monitor



Weight scale



Hearables



Smart clothing



Mobile app



Platforms to integrate, analyze, & display data

Wearable, mobile and remote monitoring for health

Key Characteristics

- **Collect health-related measurements with potential clinical utility**
- **Consumer-friendly, require little or no clinician involvement**
- **Include a sensor element & software component**
- **Connect to internet or another device (via Bluetooth, app, USB)**
- **Portable, intended for use outside of clinic or facility**

Hearables

Smart clothing

analyze, &
display data

Tools for a new brand of multidisciplinary care & research

Unprecedented approach to measure key physiological & behavioral outcomes

- Continuous, passive data collection
- Reduce barriers, limitations (distance, self-report)
- Identify early intervention signals to prevent or mitigate problems
- Wireless data transmission, large storage capacity
- Goals: Scalable, cost-effective



May reduce reliance on in-person, physical contact (COVID-19)

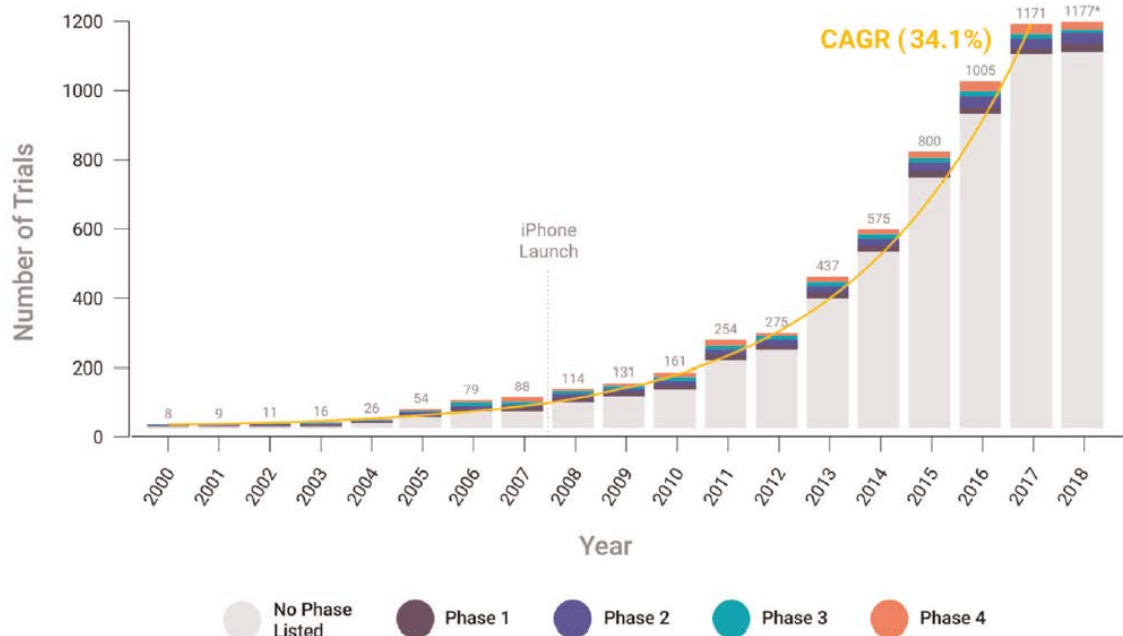
- ▶ Facilitate transition to remote clinical trials
- ▶ Enhance virtual visits
 - MDACC: Home-based digital monitoring for COVID-19 & validation of COVID symptom PRO measure

Patient perspectives

- **Mobile technology use is consumer-driven**
 - 81% own smartphones, ~ 50% own tablets
 - 61% age 65+ own smartphones, 91% own any cellphone
 - **Most cancer care is experienced away from clinic setting**
 - Opportunities for enhanced monitoring for varied and complicated side effects
 - Less burden for clinical trials participation
 - **Acceptability, feasibility are favorable when technology is perceived as adding value to care**
 - **Large survey of patients with chronic conditions: mixed responses about acceptance of wearables, concern about losing in-person contacts¹**
- **Need high tech + high touch, ongoing attention to patient engagement**



Inclusion of connected digital devices in clinical trials, 2000-2018



22 cancer trials reported in 2018

4 primary uses:

- Validate functionality
- Test clinical usability
- Capture endpoint data
- Digital therapeutic intervention

b

Most Recent 4 Yrs (2015-2018)

	No. of trials (2015-18)	Industry funded ¹	Designated as Phase 1, 2, 3, or 4 ¹	Interventional trials ¹
Smartphone	1207	0.14	0.07	0.85
Mobile app / mHealth	693	0.15	0.05	0.90
Actigraph	400	0.05	0.08	0.86
Fitbit	311	0.11	0.07	0.88
iPad	232	0.12	0.05	0.83

Wearable activity monitors

- **Expansion of consumer-grade monitors, smartphone trackers**
 - Measure step count, sleep, heart rate, energy expenditure
- **Immediate feedback on step count + behavioral strategies (e.g., goal setting) may improve activity levels**
- **Recent evidence: Higher step count associated with lower all-cause mortality¹; sedentary behavior associated with higher cancer mortality²**
- **Most oncology studies using wearable monitors have focused on changes in activity levels as outcome (n=41 studies)²**

¹Saint-Maurice JAMA 2020; Hall IJBNPA 2020; ²Gilchrist 2020

Wearable activity monitors & performance status (PS)

- **Can wearables improve accuracy of PS & physical function assessment, reduce bias in assessment, & help guide and monitor therapy?**
 - **Positive correlation between step count, provider-assessed PS, PROs (fatigue, QOL, depressive symptoms)^{1,2}**
 - **+1000 steps/day associated with fewer hospitalizations & adverse events, better survival²**
 - **Longitudinal evaluation of activity, PS, QOL, clinical outcomes³**

Connected digital devices & ePROs in multifunction platforms

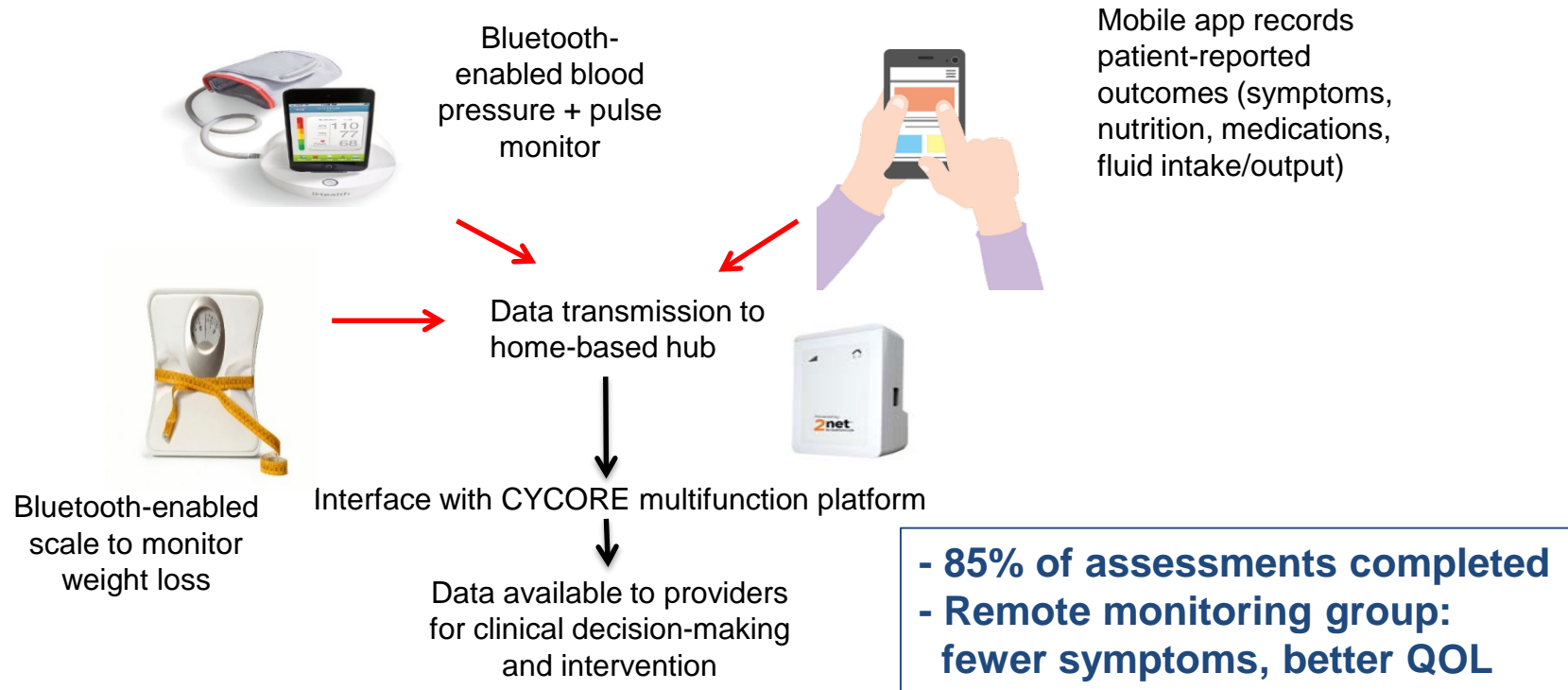
Palliative chemotherapy for gynecologic cancers ¹

- Activity, heart rate, symptom ePRO
- Symptom management guidance tailored to response thresholds
- Avg. 80% completion
- Identified subsample with multiple worse outcomes

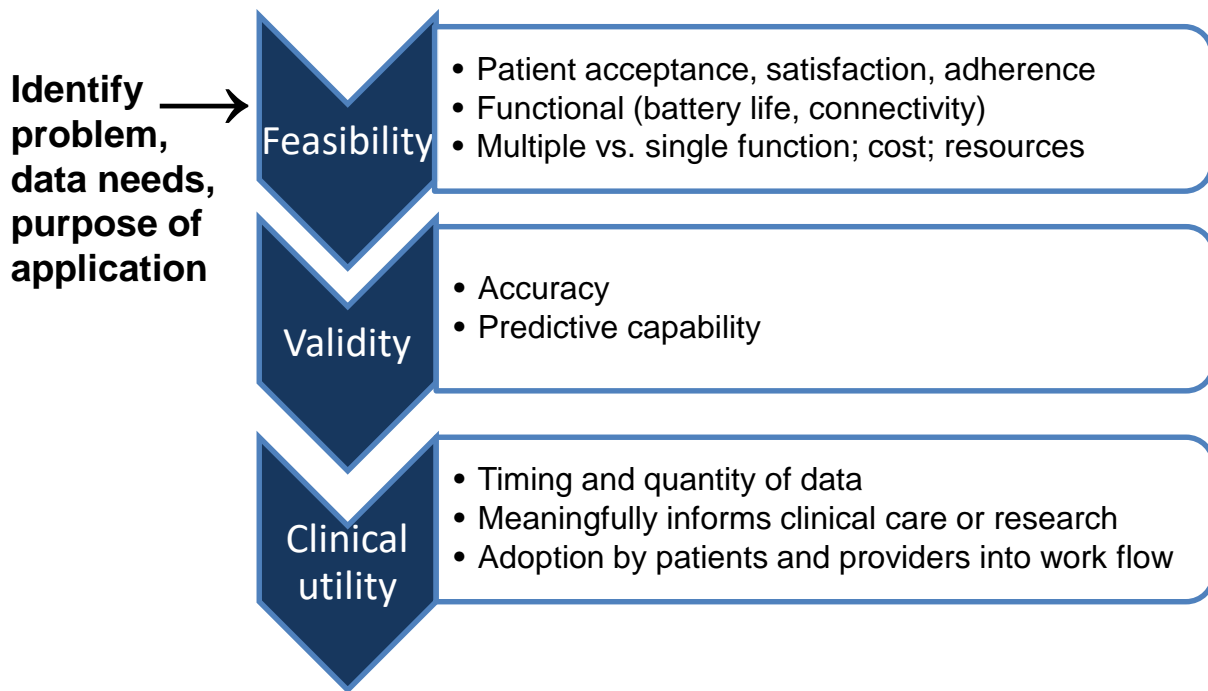
Home-administered chemotherapy for advanced GI cancers²

- Sleep, body weight changes, daily circadian rest-activity rhythm (*CircAct*), symptom ePRO
- Provider intervention tailored to response thresholds
- Avg. 67% completion; indicated tolerance for a multi-drug regimen

ePROs and remote monitoring for dehydration during radiation treatment for head and neck cancer



Advancing the use of mobile and wearable technology in cancer clinical trials



*Digital Health Innovation
Action Plan (FDA, 2017)*



**Digital Health
Technologies
Recommendations**

**Feasibility Studies
Database**
(12 cancer trials: 10
physical activity)

Summary and future directions

- **Increase the evidence base for use of connected digital technology in cancer**
 - Expand focus beyond activity monitors
 - Identify and test patient-centered use cases that optimize technology applications
 - Address the cancer continuum from primary prevention to long-term survivorship
 - Leverage the current disruption of COVID-19 to identify opportunities for innovation
- **Infrastructure to support access to mobile and wearable technology, particularly among underserved populations**
- **Incentivize the creation of a connected digital ecosystem**
 - Interoperable components with open interfaces to accelerate development of new multicomponent systems