LUNG CANCER MANAGEMENT INSIGHTS

Category IX: Industry-Sponsored Clinical Research

BACKGROUND

Oncology navigation is evidence-based and plays an important role in lung cancer care, but variation remains in the navigator's role across the continuum from early- to late-stage lung cancer. Examining nurse and patient navigator roles in lung cancer screening, incidental pulmonary nodule (IPN) management, and lung cancer diagnosis and treatment can ensure quality lung cancer care.

OBJECTIVES

- ★ Examine the role of navigators and navigation approaches in IPN management and lung cancer screening, as well as across the disease trajectory
- → Identify from navigator perspective the operational challenges in lung cancer screening and characterize best practices across multiple stages of disease, including IPN identification and stewardship
- ★ Explore needed tools and resources for navigators across the continuum of lung cancer care

METHODS

- ♣ An online screener was deployed to an initial list of 92 oncology navigators with experience in:
- Comprehensive lung cancer screening
- IPN management
- Management of patients with lung cancer
- → Of 41 screener responses, 28 respondents were identified as having key roles in the lung cancer continuum of patient care and invited to participate in Real Time Market Intelligence (RTMi) online survey
- → Nineteen healthcare practitioners/navigators (nurses, respiratory therapists, [APP], etc.) completed survey
- → This report summarizes survey insights

RESULTS

Though sample size was small, it is likely indicative of varied current state and practices:

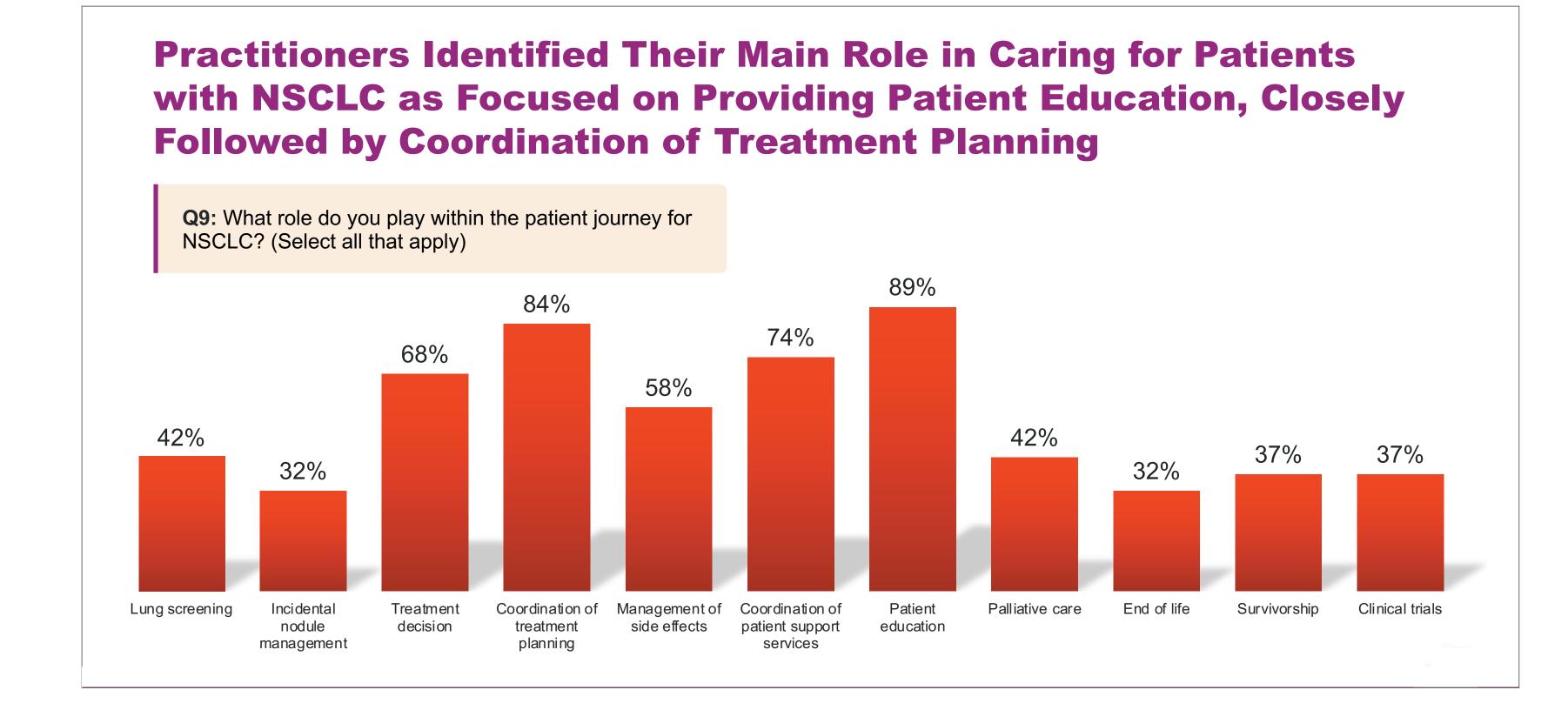
- → Almost 90% of practices surveyed have dedicated lung nurse navigators
- Although many programs represented do not utilize different navigators along the care continuum, those that did separated screening navigation from diagnostic through treatment/survivorship/end of life
- → Navigator roles vary for centers that do have different nurse navigators along the lung cancer care continuum
- → While programs did not demonstrate a consensus in utilizing IPN management guidelines, several utilized Fleischer guidelines for follow-up and management of IPNs
- → Practitioners, including navigators, identified their main role in caring for patients with NSCLC as providing patient education, closely followed by coordination of treatment planning
- Nearly 75% of respondents attested to providing biomarker education; thoracic surgeons, medical oncologists, and oncology nurse navigators were noted as education providers
- ★ According to 40% of respondents, less than 50% of lung cancer patient cases are presented at tumor conferences
- → Almost 90% of respondents claimed a medium to high awareness of adjuvant treatment options beyond chemotherapy
- → Webinars, websites, and printable PDFs are preferred vehicles for receiving professional education
- → Significant barriers to care relate to inadequate staffing and coordination of care
- → Highlighted best practice: involvement of lung cancer nurse navigator

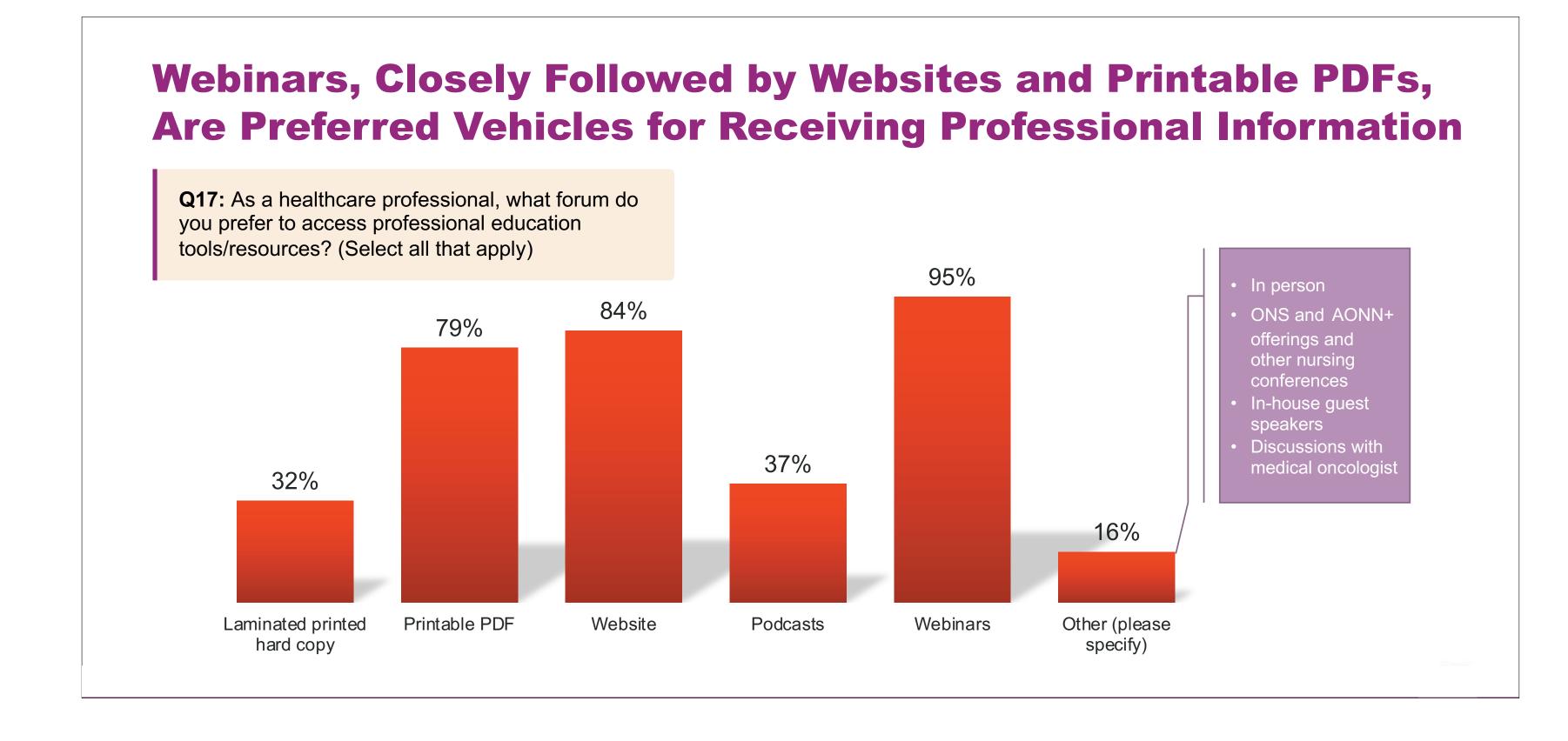
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CONCLUSION

By analyzing the role of navigators and navigation approaches in IPN management and lung cancer screening across the disease trajectory, and given the implications of this data from the navigator's perspective, educational tools in the form of 2 best practice papers, a navigation checklist for CT screening and IPN management and a Navigation Patient Roadmap, are deliverables as a survey outcome. In addition, data showed areas of challenge: access, coordination of care, patient, and financial barriers, while best practices included the value of the nurse navigator, biomarker education, and multidisciplinary team approach.

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