The Association Between Patient-Reported and Objective Oral Anticancer Medication Adherence Measures: A Systematic Review

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The use of oral anticancer medication (OAM) has been steadily on the rise to treat a variety of cancer types (Bedell, 2003; Moore, 2007; O’Neill & Twelves, 2002). OAMs allow patients to administer their own treatments from the privacy of their homes, decreasing the necessity for frequent clinic visits. As a result, OAMs have been shown to be a patient-preferred option, related primarily to the convenience of administration, as well as the perceived reduction in interference with everyday life (Foulon, Schoffski, & Wolter, 2011). The preference for oral over IV medications may also be related, in part, to an increase in perceived effectiveness and the perceived reduced toxicity of this method (Borner et al., 2002; Fallowfield et al., 2006; Thanki, Gangwal, Sangamwar, & Jain, 2013).

Despite the perceived benefits of OAM, adherence (defined, in this context, as the extent to which patients take their medications as prescribed by their healthcare providers either as part of clinical trial participation or routine