



Effective Health Care Cancer Screening Recommendations for Racial/Ethnic Minorities Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Cancer screening recommendations for racial/ethnic minorities is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time. However this topic could potentially be considered for new research projects within the Effective Healthcare Program.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator is concerned that current recommendations for colon and prostate cancer are not optimal for racial/ethnic minorities. The nominator would like to see a review that compares the effect of screening recommendations for the general population to optimal recommendations for racial/ethnic minorities. The nominator would also like to know if the literature used in evidence-based recommendations has resulted in recommended health practices that may not be optimal for racial/ethnic minorities.

Staff-Generated PICO

Population(s): General population including racial/ethnic minorities -- specifically mentioned are African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans

Intervention(s): Colorectal and prostate cancer screening using general recommendations

Comparator(s): Colorectal and prostate cancer screening using racially- or ethnically-specific recommendations

Outcome(s): Reduced disparities in health outcomes for colon and prostate cancer between the general population and racial/ethnic minorities

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. Do “evidence-based” cancer recommendations that do not consider racial/ethnic variation in disease patterns contribute to the more advanced disease stage at diagnosis and higher mortality observed for some racial/ethnic minority populations?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Only one relevant study was identified that focuses on individualized colonoscopy screening and compares outcomes of different screening recommendations for minorities. We found no studies that address the nominator's concern as to whether evidence-based recommendations have resulted in recommended health practices that may not be optimal for racial/ethnic minorities. Despite the need and interest in addressing disparities in cancer screening for racial/ethnic minorities, evidence-based guidelines are very limited in making recommendations specifically for minorities due to a lack of data.
- Potential new research within the EHC Program could include implementation and outcomes of racially/ethnically-specific cancer screening guidelines, development and validation of novel risk indices that incorporate race/ethnicity as a risk factor, and modeling the natural history of colorectal or prostate cancer in different minority populations.