Appendix: Supplementary data

Prostate Cancer Risk Profile

• Regular screening procedures are not uniformly offered across racial groups.
• Disease, patient, and provider factors all contribute to the adverse prostate cancer risk profile in African-American men.
• Biological factors likely constitute a race-specific determinant for the adverse prostate cancer risk profile in African-American men.

Radical Prostatectomy Utilization

• Variation in treatment patterns contributes to prostate cancer survival disparities.
• Lack of healthcare access, e.g. lack of health insurance, is a relevant factor for decreased utilization of radical prostatectomy in African-American men.
• Controversy persists with regard to whether prostate cancer outcomes are equivalent across racial groups after controlling for health care access.

Survival Outcomes after Radical Prostatectomy

• Trends toward increased utilization of radical prostatectomy across racial groups may lessen disparities in prostate cancer survival outcomes.
• The surgical treatment of prostate cancer in African-American men at younger ages than their counterparts may yield a compensatory effect for equivalence of survival outcomes.
• Technically inadequate surgical treatment or tumors with more aggressive biological behavior remain possible explanations for adverse survival outcomes in African-American men.

Synthesis

• Treatment access is not a race-specific variable for prostate cancer.
• Quality of care may impact survival outcomes across different racial groups.
• Quality indicators of the surgical treatment for prostate cancer require further study.

Take-Action Considerations

• Both pattern of care and quality of care improvements are elements of policy change needed in the management of prostate cancer.
• Biological, genetic, social, environmental, dietary, and lifestyle domains all require further study as risk factors for health care disparities in prostate cancer.
• The development and use of new technologies in the surgical management of prostate cancer may reduce health care disparities.

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