Does equal access mean equal treatment? Race and treatment received in an equal access medical center

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INTRODUCTION:

• Prior studies have shown that black men with newly diagnosed prostate cancer are less likely to undergo surgery and more likely to have radiation
  • These studies were not done in an equal access medical center
  • Whether results differ in an equal access center is unknown

OBJECTIVES:

• Test whether race is associated with treatment received in an equal access center

METHODS:

• 2,799 men newly diagnosed PC at the Durham VA Center from 1988-2019
• Assessed treatment received within 6 months of diagnosis
• Multivariable multinomial logistic regression to test if race predicted treatment
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RESULTS:

- Black men presented at younger age and more T1 cancers, but with higher PSA and higher grade disease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Unadjusted OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>Adjusted OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No treatment</td>
<td>0.99 (0.79-1.25)</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>1.16 (0.88-1.52)</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiation</td>
<td>1.17 (0.98-1.40)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>1.32 (1.09-1.61)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hormonal</td>
<td>0.92 (0.70-1.20)</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.98 (0.68-1.43)</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSIONS:

- Even in an equal access center, black men, are more likely to receive radiation relative to surgery.
- More research needed to understand the factors (i.e. patient vs. provider factors) that drive black men to receive more radiation