

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

Alexis R. Freedland, Lauren E. Howard, Adriana C. Vidal, Emily K. Wiggins, Amanda M. de Hoedt, Stephen J. Freedland

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

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

RESULTS:

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

Odds ratio for black men to receive different treatments relative to white men				
Outcome	Unadjusted		Adjusted	
	OR (95% CI)	p-value	OR (95% CI)	p-value
Surgery	Ref.		Ref.	
No treatment	0.99 (0.79-1.25)	0.93	1.16 (0.88-1.52)	0.29
Radiation	1.17 (0.98-1.40)	0.09	1.32 (1.09-1.61)	0.006
Hormonal	0.92 (0.70-1.20)	0.54	0.98 (0.68-1.43)	0.93

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