Contributors to Perceived Surgical Treatment Consequences for Breast Cancer in Latinas

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Introduction

Compared to non-Latina Whites, Latinas

- Are more likely to be diagnosed with advanced stages of breast cancer

- Have poorer physical and psychological outcomes after breast cancer

- Concerns about treatment on body image, femininity, psychosexual concerns, & negative partner reactions after breast cancer

www.cancer.org; Ashing-Giwa et al., Psycho-Oncology 2004; Luckett et al., Lancet Oncology 2011; Yanez et al., JCSP 2011
Introduction

• Cancer-related issues relevant to Latinas

- Poor patient-provider communication
  • Language barriers
  • Stylistic differences in communication

- Negative illness perceptions such as fatalistic beliefs
  • Death is inevitable when cancer is present

• Particularly relevant to low-income and low-acculturated Latinas facing many barriers during their care

Ramirez et al., 2005 Cancer; Yanez et al., Health Psychology in press
Introduction

• Important to examine explanatory mechanisms

• HOWEVER, **communication, illness perceptions, & surgical evaluations** are understudied among low-income, low-acculturated Latinas
Introduction

Aims

• Determine prevalence of clinical depression and cancer-specific distress among low-income Latinas diagnosed with breast cancer

• Test a conceptual model involving the relationship between culturally-relevant issues to Latinas, patient-reported surgical evaluations, and change in psychological adjustment to breast cancer diagnosis and treatment
Methods

Participants & Procedures

• Latinas diagnosed with stages 0-III breast cancer

• First time diagnosed

• Recruited from a UCLA satellite clinic in the San Fernando Valley

• Time 1 (T1) assessment within 18 months of diagnosis
  • Time 2 (T2) assessment 3 months later

• Assessed by telephone in either English or Spanish

• Compensated $35 for their participation
## Methods

### Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient-Physician Communication</th>
<th>Perceived Efficacy in Patient-Physician Communication Scale</th>
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| Illness Perceptions: Fatalistic Beliefs | Powe Fatalism Index  
Predetermination Subscale |
| Patient-Reported Surgical Evaluations | Breast Cancer Decision-Making Questionnaire  
- Patient-Reported Evaluation of Appearance Subscale  
- Patient-Reported Evaluation of Curative Effectiveness Subscale |
| Cancer-Specific Distress | Impact of Event Scale |
| Major Depressive Disorder | Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders (SCID) |
Methods

Hypothesized Conceptual Model

- Illness Perceptions: Fatalistic Beliefs
- Perceived Efficacy in Patient-Physician Communication
- Patient-Reported Surgical Treatment Evaluations
- Psychological Adjustment

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Methods

Hypothesized Conceptual Model

- Illness Perceptions: Fatalistic Beliefs
- Perceived Efficacy in Patient-Physician Communication
- Evaluation of Curative Effectiveness of Surgery
- Evaluation of Appearance after Surgery
- Cancer-Specific Distress
- Major Depressive Disorder
Results

Participants

• 105 Latinas (82 completed both assessments)
• 90% enrolled in Medi-Cal (Medicaid)
• 76% completed Time 1 within 4 months of surgery
• 57% mastectomy, 43% lumpectomy
• 56% Stage I or II
• Mean age = 50 years
• 50% of Latinas were Mexican
• Over 80% were first generation & Spanish-speaking
• Majority of physicians English-speaking
Results

Psychological Adjustment

• Time 1
  - 20% met criteria for major depressive disorder (MDD)
  - 30% scored in the highly distressed range on the Impact of Event Scale

• Time 2
  - 15% met criteria for MDD
  - 25% scored in the highly distressed range on the Impact of Event Scale
Results

Final Path Model

Robust Statistics ($p = .09; \text{CFI} = .96; \text{RMSEA} = .058$)

$p < .05^* \quad p < .01^{**} \quad p < .001^{***}$
Results

Final Path Model

Robust Statistics ($p = .09; CFI = .96; RMSEA = .058$)

\[ p < .05^* \quad p < .01^{**} \quad p < .001^{***} \]
Results

Final Path Model

Robust Statistics (p = .09; CFI = .96; RMSEA = .058)
Results

Final Path Model

Robust Statistics ($p = .09$; CFI = .96; RMSEA = .058)

$p < .05^*$  $p < .01^{**}$  $p < .001^{***}$
Discussion

Summary

• Low-income Latinas have higher rates of MDD and cancer-specific distress relative to Whites

• Fatalistic beliefs and cancer communication are predictors of surgical treatment evaluation

• Patient-reported evaluation of appearance is a predictor of psychological adjustment
Discussion

Why does this matter?

• Low-income Latinas are at greater risk for poor psychological adjustment after cancer compared to the general cancer population.

• Improved communication may increase cancer knowledge, aid decision making, establish rapport with medical team, and increase adherence to future cancer treatments and screening.

• Understanding explanatory pathways can inform targeted interventions for Latinas.
Discussion

Future Directions

• Constructs such as acculturation, familism, and coping processes add to our understanding of Latinas’ experience with cancer

• Examine how these results generalize to a more diverse sample of Latinas
Discussion

www.armyofwomen.org

CURRENT PROJECTS

Project Title Latina Breast Cancer Initiative

Researcher Annette Stanton, Ph.D., and Betina Yanez, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles

Study Summary In an effort to find the best way to help medical providers and Latinas diagnosed with breast cancer, researchers have developed a study to investigate Latinas’ experience with cancer. The focus of this study is on quality of life and the psychological adjustment after breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. You don’t have to leave your house to participate! Interviews can be conducted in English or Spanish. A total of 150 women are needed for this study.

Who Can Participate? You can join the LATINA BREAST CANCER INITIATIVE if you match ALL of these MAIN categories:
• You were diagnosed with invasive breast cancer (Stages I-IV) within the past 12 months
• You self-identify as Latina/Hispanic
• This is the first time you have been diagnosed with breast cancer
Thank You!

For questions or comments:

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