RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN COLORECTAL CANCER

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Abstract: Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Racially disparate incidence and mortality rates among colorectal cancer patients have become a well establish phenomena. Most patients are being diagnosed at a later stage of the disease, potentially as a result of a lower level of screening. In this study, the incidence rates and mortality rates from colorectal cancer among different races will be examined. In addition, the effect of early screening on the incidence and mortality rates will be investigated. Data were collected from the United States Cancer Statistics (USCS) database and from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) in the United States and in Mississippi for the year 2000 to 2006. Analysis of variance was performed to determine the statistical difference in incidence rates and mortality rates from colorectal cancer and a regression analysis was performed to determine the association between incidence and death rates and the colonoscopy Exam. The result of the study indicate that the state of Mississippi has a significantly higher incidence and mortality rate of colorectal cancer compare to the rest of the United State. The results also indicate that the colonoscopy exam significantly decrease the incidence and mortality rates in the state if Mississippi. The high incidence and mortality of colorectal cancer is associated with many factors including easy access to screening, obesity, family history and many more.

Keywords: Colorectal Cancer, Colonoscopy, Blood Stool Exam, Health Insurance

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