Prostate Cancer

The Disparity in the Mortality of Prostate Cancer among Black Males Compared to the General Population of Massachusetts
What is a health disparity?

“A particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social or economic disadvantage.”

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Disparities

- “Preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or in opportunities to achieve optimal health” - CDC
- Experienced by socially disadvantaged racial and/or ethnic groups
- Exist in all age groups
- Can last for generations if not addressed
“Black men are not more disease prone, they are more disparity prone.”

-Michelle Gitau
Prostate Cancer

A type of cancer that occurs in the prostate gland

- Most common cancer for men in MA.
- Most lethal malignancy in African American men.
- Second leading cause of cancer death in American men.
British surgeon who first diagnosed prostate cancer
Signs of Prostate Cancer

- Trouble urinating
- Burning sensation when urinating
- Frequent urination
- Blood in the urine/semen
- Discomfort when sitting
- Decreased force in stream of urine
Causes

- Genetics
- Social and environmental oppression
- Higher rates of exposure to cancer-causing pollutants
- Smoking
- Obesity
"Black men are 50% more likely to develop prostate cancer in their lifetime and 2x as likely to die from the disease," Dr. Kantoff
Table 10.  
FIVE LEADING CANCER INCIDENCE RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX  
Massachusetts, 2013-2017  

MALES  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>White, non-Hispanic</th>
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<td>Prostate 178.5</td>
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Uninsured Rates of Non-elderly by Race/Ethnicity
Medicaid Coverage for Non-elderly by Race/Ethnicity
Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Test
- Blood test that measures the amount of PSA
- PSA levels can be affected by many factors such as age, race, and certain medications.

Digital Rectal Examination (DRE)
- Health care provider inserts a gloved, lubricated finger into man’s rectum to feel the prostate for anything abnormal
  - This type of test is not commonly used because there is no evidence of the benefits
Prevention
Community- Based Support

- Worcester YMCA - Basketball game which encourages individuals to sign up for screenings
- Worcester YMCA - “No White Coat Syndrome” event
- Annual Prostate Cancer Awareness Day - Feb 25th 2021 - held virtually by AdMeTech Foundations
- Massachusetts Prostate Cancer Coalition Events

2021
SAVE THE DATE
MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEPTION AT HARVARD CLUB
NOV. 4, 2021
Conclusions

- Black men are not biologically more prone to prostate cancer
  - Environmental disadvantages put them at a higher risk
- It is important that Black families in MA are proactive seeking knowledge and spreading awareness of prostate cancer among Black men
Areas of further research

Genetic Predispositions
- Passing it down through generations

Environmental Disadvantages
- Exactly what they look like? And how to eliminate them?
References


"Prostate Cancer." Mayo Clinic, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 4 June 2021.


Thank you for listening!

ANY QUESTIONS?