

Title: Screening Colonoscopy Among Patients of African American Primary Care Physicians Trained in Colonoscopy Performance in South Carolina

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Abstract:

Project Significance:

African Americans have: a) disproportionately higher case incidence, deaths, and aggressive colorectal cancer (CRCA) than whites, b) twice the incidence of colorectal cancer among <50 age group as whites, and c) far higher incidence of right (ascending) colon polyps and cancers, the sites missed by sigmoidoscopy, the traditionally used screening tool. Reducing colorectal cancer disparities will require widely accessible colonoscopy screening services. Colonoscopy screening can prevent 90% of CRCA cases and 95% of deaths, by detecting and removing polyps, the precursors of CRCA. While sigmoidoscopy was performed by primary care physicians (PCP), colonoscopy, which is a more skilled procedure, is almost exclusively performed by gastroenterologists. Currently available specialist capacity is able to meet about 50% of the screening colonoscopy need. The question is, will training of primary care physicians in colonoscopy increase colonoscopy completion rates among age-eligible African Americans?

Project Objective:

To compare the colonoscopy compliance rates among age-eligible primary care outpatients of trained African American primary care physicians before their training began and after beginning to train in colonoscopy performance.

Data sources and analysis:

Medical chart review of 200 screening-eligible patients each of 6 African American primary care physicians trained in colonoscopy (total 1200 chart reviews) will serve as the data source. Compliance differences before and after training will be compared. The rates of having had a screening colonoscopy between African American and white patients of these physicians will be compared for each of the two periods (before and after training began). Demographic and insurance status association with having had a colonoscopy will be assessed using hierarchical modeling using physician as a random effect variable.

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