

#154 Lawrence Langan

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Differences of Beliefs, Knowledge and Practices Regarding COVID19 in Older vs Younger Inner-city Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) or Kidney Transplant (KTx)

Introduction

Studies have shown that COVID19 is associated with worse outcomes in older pts (OP) with underlying conditions. We studied an inner-city population to look for differences in attitudes and behaviors in OP vs younger pts in a high-risk population with CKD or KTx.

Methods

A random sample of pts from KTx (40) and CKD clinics (20) were interviewed by phone on views of, knowledge of, and practices relating to COVID. No differences were noted between clinics so all data were analyzed together. Pts were grouped as older (OP, age \geq 65, n=40) and younger (YP, age $<$ 65, n=20). Analysis was by Chi-square or t-test as appropriate.

Results

Mean age overall was 58.7 ± 12.0 yrs. There were 28 men and 32 women with 42 Black, 6 Hispanic, 3 White, and 9 others. 31 had a current history of diabetes (DM), 53 had a current history of HTN, 10 had not completed high school and 30 not attended college. Compared to YP: OP were more likely to have DM ($p<0.01$) with no difference for HTN. OP were less afraid of COVID ($p=0.015$), with no differences about the importance of social distancing. OP were more likely to believe vitamins can help prevent COVID ($p=0.03$) with no significant differences on knowledge of asymptomatic presentation, droplet-based spread, or virus preventability. OP were more likely to avoid leaving home ($p=0.043$) and were equally likely to cover their face/nose while sneezing/coughing, wash their hands, and use face masks in crowds.

Conclusion

In our population, OP are more likely to have DM when compared to YP, placing them further at risk for COVID and its complications; however, they are less afraid of it. This may be because OP are more likely to avoid leaving home and because of misinformation that vitamins can prevent COVID. Further examination of the beliefs, knowledge, and practices on COVID in this high-risk population is warranted to create educational programs in order to best protect them during the current and future pandemics.