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Perceptions of Inner-City Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Kidney Transplant (KTx) Patients on Colorectal Cancer (CRC) and Colonoscopy

INTRODUCTION

CKD pts may participate less in cancer screening, especially those in underserved communities. We studied pts' attitudes and knowledge of colorectal cancer (CRC) and participation in CRC screening in an inner-city population.

METHODS

Pts ≥ 50 yrs of age from Transplant (16) and CKD clinic (12) were interviewed by phone regarding beliefs and knowledge of CRC and colonoscopy. There were no differences noted among clinics so data was pooled.

RESULTS

Mean age was 60.9 ± 1.6 yrs with 12 (43%) men and 16 (57%) women with 4 Hispanic, 17 Black, 2 White, 5 other. 3 (11%) were employed, 7 (25%) were retired, 3 (11%) were unemployed, and 13 (46%) were on disability. Time since txp was 8.86 ± 6.5 yrs. 43% were worried about future cancer, and 89% stated that CRC was "very serious" but only 36% believed they knew enough about it. Pts who stated they did not know enough were less likely to have had a recent colonoscopy (69% vs 100%, $p=0.02$). Patients who completed college more likely believed that colonoscopy has more benefits than harm (100% vs 71%, $p=0.02$). 30% of pts knew the signs and symptoms of CRC. 93% knew what a colonoscopy was, and 24% of those pts believed there were more harms than benefits. 80% of the pts who knew what a colonoscopy reported having one. 29% of the pts either didn't know what colonoscopy was or chose not to get one. 48% of patients who received colonoscopy stated the reason was doctor suggestion. Asked how to encourage CRC screening, 5 pts stated more education, 2 hearing CRC experiences from other people, and 1 reminders due to focus on their kidney disease.

CONCLUSION

In our population: 1. The majority of pts had a colonoscopy but almost 1/3 did not. 2. Pts believe CRC is serious and preventable, but lack knowledge of signs and symptoms. 3. Pts who were confident in their CRC education were more likely to had a colonoscopy. 4. Educational programs targeted towards our inner-city CKD pts should be developed to help them better understand CRC.