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Mammography screening among women living with HIV: The role of health care empowerment

With women living with HIV (WWH) living nearly as long as similar women without HIV (WWOH) there is increased emphasis on understanding how best to support early detection and management of common comorbid conditions among WWH. WWH have lower rates of breast cancer screening than WWOH and gaps exist in understanding how best to support adherence among WWH. Health care empowerment (HCE) is defined as the process and state of being 1) engaged, informed, collaborative and committed to one's health care (ICCE) and 2) tolerant or resilient to uncertainties in treatment outcomes (TU). Higher levels of ICCE and TU have been associated with health promoting attitudes and behaviors among persons living with HIV. However, these constructs have not been investigated in the context of mammography screening among WWH. Data were analyzed among WWH ages 41-73 enrolled in the Women's Interagency HIV Study who completed an assessment of HCE at the time it was administered in the study (4/2014-9/2016). Multiple logistic regression was used to assess the association between HCE and self-reported mammogram receipt over the subsequent two years, adjusting for age, depression symptoms, loneliness, emotional and tangible social support, relationship status and study site. Of 846 eligible women, 68.7% reported mammogram receipt over a two-year period. The multivariable logistic regression model was statistically significant, $\chi^2(4) = 61.62$, $p < .001$, and the model correctly classified 70% of cases (Nagelkerke $R^2 = .102$). WWH reporting mammogram receipt had higher ICCE scores ($M=18.10/SD=2.06$) than did women who did not complete a mammogram ($M = 17.7/SD=2.27$; $OR = 1.10$, 95% $CI = 1.02-1.20$, $p = 0.02$), adjusting for TU and other model covariates. TU was not associated with mammogram receipt. These findings expand research on modifiable determinants of mammography screening in WWH and the role of HCE and can inform interventions targeted to improving health outcomes among WWH.