Introduction

- Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in the United States, with their population projected to surpass 46 million by 2060, a 130% increase (Budiman & Ruiz, 2022).
- Asians are the only United States racial group where cancer is the leading cause of death in both males and females (Lee et al., 2021).
- Colorectal cancer incidence among Asian Americans is lower than non-Hispanic whites, yet mortality is higher (Lee et al., 2021).
- Overall, Asian Americans remain severely underrepresented in colorectal cancer screening compared to other racial groups.

Thus, the goal of this study was to review the multiple levels of influences—individual (e.g., psychological), clinical (e.g., physician), cultural, and healthcare-associated with Asian American colorectal cancer screening rates.

Methods

- An initial PubMed database search yielded 47 results matching the formulated search term.
- 20 papers were deemed eligible for further review following abstract review. Of the 27 papers deemed ineligible:
  - n=17 (Not focused on factors)
  - n=6 (Not focused on Asians)
  - n=4 (Physician/Provider focus)
- 13 papers were deemed eligible following full paper review. Of the 7 papers deemed ineligible:
  - n=6 (No explicit measure of screening behaviors)
  - n=1 (Review article)

A total of 13 papers were coded across 5 domains: demographic factors, psychological factors, physician factors, healthcare access, and cultural factors.

Results

Conclusions/Discussions

- Overall findings show that multiple levels of influence appear associated with Asian American colorectal cancer screening rates.
- Access to healthcare and a physician recommendation were associated with higher rates of screening as is seen among other racial groups.
- Being more acculturated, or adapted to life in the United States, was shown to be associated with higher rates of Asian American screening compliance. However, we know that the acculturation paradox can negatively impact other health outcomes, so further research is needed.
- Knowledge score was shown to not be associated with Asian American colorectal cancer screening.
- Healthcare access and psychological factors are important, but knowledge alone may not be enough to promote changes in Asian American colorectal cancer screening behavior.
- Over half the studies had no guiding theoretical concept, something important to incorporate in future studies.
- Knowing this, it is important to consider physician and provider involvement to ensure meaningful steps are taken to squash this disparity.

Limitations:

- Only PubMed was searched due to time constraints.
- Only 1 person coded the data meaning inter-rater reliability was not possible.
- Asians are very heterogeneous, and only 13 papers were reviewed, so no unique factors could be identified for each racial group.

References


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