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Barriers to Cervical Cancer Screening

January 31, 2013



A collaborative study including Dr. Yelena Tarasenko examines barriers to cervical cancer among middle-aged and older rural Appalachian women. Although cervical cancer rates in the United States have declined sharply in recent decades, certain groups of women remain at elevated risk, including middle-aged and older women in central Appalachia. Cross-sectional baseline data from a community-based randomized controlled trial were examined to identify barriers to cervical cancer screening. Results of descriptive and bivariate analyses are reported, identifying (a) the most frequently endorsed barriers to screening and (b) significant associations of barriers with sociodemographic characteristics in the sample.

The study provides recommendations to decrease these barriers and, ultimately, improve rates of Pap tests among this traditionally underserved and disproportionately affected group.

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