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Georgia Southern Examines Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Mortality among Hispanic Women

January 26, 2018



Over the past half century the proportion of Hispanics in the US population has been steadily increasing, and groups of Hispanic origin have diversified. Despite notable racial and ethnic disparities in ovarian cancer (OC) mortality, population-based studies on OC among Hispanic females are lacking.

The disparities in OC 5 year survival and mortality were examined using log-rank tests and Cox proportional hazards models, adjusted for sociodemographic and pathological characteristics, time of diagnosis, receipt of resection surgery and county socioeconomic status. Trends in 5-year survival rates were examined using joinpoint regression models.

The 5-year survival was lowest in Puerto Ricans (median survival: 33 months; survival rate: 31.07%) and was highest in the “Other” Hispanic subgroup (median survival: 59 months; survival rate: 49.14%) (log-rank test: $P < 0.001$). The OC-specific death hazards in Mexicans (HR_{adj} : 0.82, 95%CI: 0.67–1.00, $P = 0.048$), South or Central Americans (HR_{adj} : 0.77, 95%CI: 0.62–0.96, $P = 0.005$) and Other Hispanics (HR_{adj} : 0.76, 95%CI: 0.63–0.92, $P = 0.038$) were significantly lower than for Puerto Ricans. Mortality rates of Cubans and Puerto Ricans were not significantly different. During 1992–2008, there were non-significant increasing trends in the 5-year all-cause and OC-specific survival rates: from 43.37% to 48.94% ($APC = 0.41$, $P = 0.40$) and from 48.72% to 53.46% ($APC = 0.29$, $P = 0.50$), respectively.

OC mortality in Hispanic patients varied by sub-ethnicity. This heterogeneity should be considered in future cancer data collection, reports and research.

[“Epithelial ovarian cancer mortality among Hispanic women: Sub-ethnic disparities and survival trend across time: An analysis of SEER 1992–2013,”](#) was recently published in Cancer Epidemiology.

Dr. Chen Chen, alumni, was the lead author, and Dr. Yelena Tarasenko, Department of Epidemiology of Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University was a senior author. The study would not be possible without significant contribution and expertise of Drs. Talar Markossian and Abigail Silva. While working on her dissertation on a related topic, Chen completed SEER* Stat Basics and Advanced Training at APHA. Chen was also one of the first DrPH Leadership students who received CPH certification.

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