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# Georgia Southern Examines Cervical Cancer Screening Interventions

January 30, 2016



Immigrant Hispanic/Latina women from farmworker backgrounds are disproportionately burdened with cervical cancer, with mortality rates significantly higher than non-Hispanic whites. A recent study examined the feasibility and efficacy of *Salud es Vida*—a *promotora*-led, Spanish language educational group session on cervical cancer screening (Pap tests)—self-efficacy (belief in ability to schedule and complete a Pap test), and knowledge among these women.

The two-arm, quasi-experimental study was conducted in four rural counties of Southeast Georgia in 2014–2015. Hispanic/Latina immigrant women aged 21–65 years and overdue for a Pap test were included as

intervention ( $N = 38$ ) and control ( $N = 52$ ) group participants. The intervention was developed in partnership with a group of promotoras to create the toolkit of materials which includes a curriculum guide, a brochure, a flipchart, a short animated video, and in-class activities. Twelve (32 %) intervention group participants received the Pap test compared to 10 (19 %) control group participants ( $p = 0.178$ ). The intervention group scored significantly higher on both cervical cancer knowledge recall and retention than the control group ( $p < 0.001$ ).

While there was no statistically significant difference in cervical cancer screening self-efficacy scores between the group participants, both groups scored higher at follow-up, adjusting for the baseline scores. The group intervention approach was associated with increased cervical cancer knowledge but not uptake of Pap test. More intensive interventions using patient navigation approaches or promotoras who actively follow participants or conducting one-on-one rather than group sessions may be needed to achieve improved screening outcomes with this population.

“[Salud es Vida: a Cervical Cancer Screening Intervention for Rural Latina Immigrant Women](#)” is published in the Journal of Cancer Education.

Dr. Juan Luque, associate professor at the Medical University of South Carolina, is the lead author. Dr. Yelena Tarasenko, assistant professor of epidemiology and health policy and management at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University (JPHCOPH), Claudia Reyes-Garcia, current Georgia Southern graduate student, Dr. Moya Alfonso, associate professor at JPHCOPH, Dr. Norma Suazo, former staff member and Ms. Laura Rebing, Georgia Southern graduate from the BS in Nutrition program, and Dr. Daron G. Ferris from the GRU Cancer Center were co-authors.

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