

Capstone for Impact Submission | GY2019

Project Title: Gender and Marriage Influence the Receipt of Esophageal Cancer Care

Student Name(s): Haug, Karlie

Advisor Names(s): Amir Ghafari

Branch: Procedure Based Care

Path of Excellence: Health Policy

Handover/Transition:

If this project can be continued by another UMMS student, you may contact them at the following email address/phone number (N/A if project cannot be handed over): **no**

Summary:

Completed and submitted a manuscript on gender disparities in esophageal cancer. Pending acceptance to Journal of Surgical Research

Methodology:

We analyzed data from a prospective state cancer registry of esophageal cancer patients from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2013. Demographics, marital status, disease status, and treatments were reviewed. A chi-square test and Fisher's exact test were used to analyze categorical variables and two-sample t-tests were used to compare continuous variables. Statistical significance defined at $p \leq 0.05$.

Results/Conclusion:

Gender and marriage play under-recognized roles in receiving optimal esophageal cancer care. Being married increased the likelihood of early diagnosis and receiving surgery for non-metastatic disease. Women are less likely to receive surgery as part of their esophageal cancer treatment and more likely to refuse curative surgery when it is recommended. Physicians must consider the gender and marital status of their patients when discussing treatment strategies for esophageal cancer.

Reflection/Lessons Learned:

Writing manuscripts can take a very long time to complete. It's ideal if you can run/understand your own data, but don't be afraid to outsource. We have lots of work to do in terms of providing equitable care for women.