Factors Influencing Treatment Decisions for Prostate Cancer Patients

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Prostate Cancer: Many Options

• Because of screening, most men with prostate cancer are diagnosed before it has spread

• These patients have many options:
  – Active surveillance
  – Surgery
  – Radiation (multiple types)

• This can be a confusing decision process
Surveillance vs Radiation vs Surgery

• Many factors go into each patient’s decision-making process
  – Aggressive treatment/cure
  – Side effects and quality of life issues
  – Cost
  – Recovery time and affecting ability to work
  – Etc

• Lack research: what factors are most important for each patient in making a decision
Disparities In Prostate Cancer

• African American men are more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer
  – and have more aggressive prostate cancer
• But, African American men are less likely to receive aggressive treatment
• Why?
Disparities In Prostate Cancer

• African American men are more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer
  – and have more aggressive prostate cancer
• But, African American men are less likely to receive aggressive treatment
• Why?
• Are there different factors that are important for African American vs Caucasian patients?
Research Study

• **North Carolina Prostate cancer Comparative Effectiveness & Survivorship Study (NC ProCESS)**

• Large study funded by federal agencies
  – Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)
  – National Cancer Institute (NCI)
  – Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

• Collaboration with PHEN

• Surveyed 1,170 men with newly-diagnosed prostate cancer
Is This Important?

Is this an important factor in your decisions about prostate cancer treatment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Caucasian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curing the cancer</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserving quality of life</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
<td>82.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowel problems</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary problems</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is This Important?

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Caucasian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of treatment</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment time</td>
<td>75.7%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery time</td>
<td>80.7%</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on daily activities</td>
<td>73.5%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Does This Mean?

• Why do African American prostate cancer patients receive less aggressive treatment?
  – Both AA and Caucasian men care about curing the cancer
  – Both AA and Caucasian men care about side effects and quality of life issues
  – But financial issues may be more of a concern for AA men

• This research shows that financial considerations may be a significant barrier for some patients to receive the treatments they need