

ABSTRACT

Factors influencing the use of screening tests for prostate cancer in primary health care practitioners and male patients 40 years and over in Kingston and St. Andrew private practices and health centres.

Kimberly Scarlett-Campbell

Background: Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer in Jamaican men. It is important especially in the Jamaican setting to assess prostate- cancer-related knowledge, attitudes and screening practices among health care providers and men in Kingston and St. Andrew. This was assessed for male patients 40 years and over as well as for health care practitioners.

Methods: Seventy Kingston and St. Andrew health care providers and one hundred and fifty male patients were interviewed using questionnaires over a two week period. This was done by sampling in the private and public sector.

Results: Significant results were that the majority of males with primary and secondary education did not know where the prostate gland was in the body (Chi -square, $p < 0.036$). 90.5 percent of men heard about prostate cancer, while 8.8% of men did not. Tertiary -educated men had prostate cancer screening discussed with them (Chi -squared, $p < 0.034$). Among health care practitioners, the majority agreed that men with prostate cancer were likely to die of other causes (Chi -square, $p < 0.02$). The diagnosis of prostate cancer in Jamaica appears to be considerably later than seen elsewhere and consequently gives rise to more morbidity and mortality. More needs to be done to educate Jamaican men about the importance of screening for prostate cancer.

Conclusions: Tertiary educated men were more likely to be screened for prostate cancer than men with primary and secondary education. Health care practitioners thought it was their responsibility to encourage men to be screened for prostate cancer. Family nurse practitioners thought that prostate cancer screening clinics should be set up to encourage older men to be screened. Most men reacted positively to the PSA test.

Keywords: Kimberly Scarlett-Campbell; prostate cancer screening; Jamaican men 40 years and over; health care practitioners; late diagnosis.