

Thyroid Cancer Prevalence Among African Americans

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Purpose of Study

To examine the disparity in the prevalence of thyroid cancer in African Americans.

Background Information

- The thyroid gland is an endocrine gland in the neck
- The thyroid produces the hormones T3, T4 and calcitonin
- T3 and T4 affect metabolism, body temperature, heart rate, growth and development
- Calcitonin affects calcium balance in the body
- Mutations causes thyroid cancer
- The incidence of thyroid cancer in black males is 3.7 per 100,000 and 7.7 per 100,000 in white males
- The incidence of thyroid cancer in black females is 12.9 per 100,000 and 21.9 per 100,000 in white females

Symptoms

- Some people have no symptoms
- Lump grows in your neck
- Neck begins to swell
- Trouble swallowing
- Trouble breathing
- Constant cough unrelated to cold

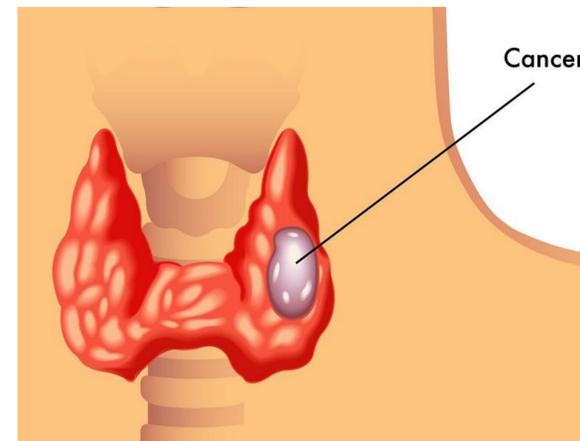


Figure 1. Location of thyroid cancer (medscape.com)

Prevention and Screening

- Most cases of thyroid cancer cannot be prevented
- The doctor will ask about medical history, do a physical exam and biopsy to check for cancer

Treatment

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radioactive iodine
- Best approach combines two treatments

Factors Influencing Disparity

- Lack of access to quality healthcare
- Unhealthy diet
- Poverty
- Exposure to environmental toxins
- Stress

Data

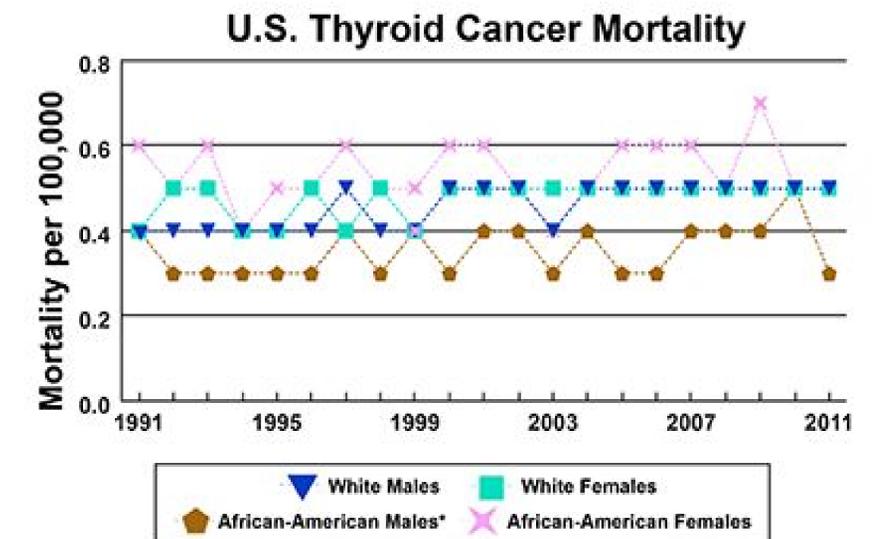


Figure 2. Incidence rates of thyroid cancer (cdc.gov)

Addressing the Disparity

- Educate UMB CURE Scholars.
- Educate families.
- Educate community.
- Become healthcare providers.
- Become cancer researchers.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2. National Cancer Institute
3. National Institute of Health
4. Treatcancer.com
5. Mescap.com