

Oral Cancer Prevalence Among African Americans

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Purpose of Study

To examine the disparity in the prevalence of Kaposi Sarcoma in African Americans.

Background Information

- Over 49750 are diagnosed with oral cancer
- It could be various environmental or life style that determinants if you get oral cancer
- Tobacco and alcohol are the strongest risk factors for oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancers
- Smokers are many times more likely than non-smokers to develop these cancers
- Drinking alcohol increases the risk of developing oral cavity and oropharyngeal
- Doctors and scientists can't say for sure what causes each case of oral cavity or oropharyngeal
- 66% of the time, oral cancers will be found in late stage 3 or 4 diseases

Symptoms

- A lump or thickening in the cheek
- Weight loss
- Voice changes
- Pain in the teeth or jaw
- A white or red patch on the gums, tongue, tonsil, or lining of the mouth
- Loosening of the teeth
- Difficulty swallowing or chewing

Prevention and Screening

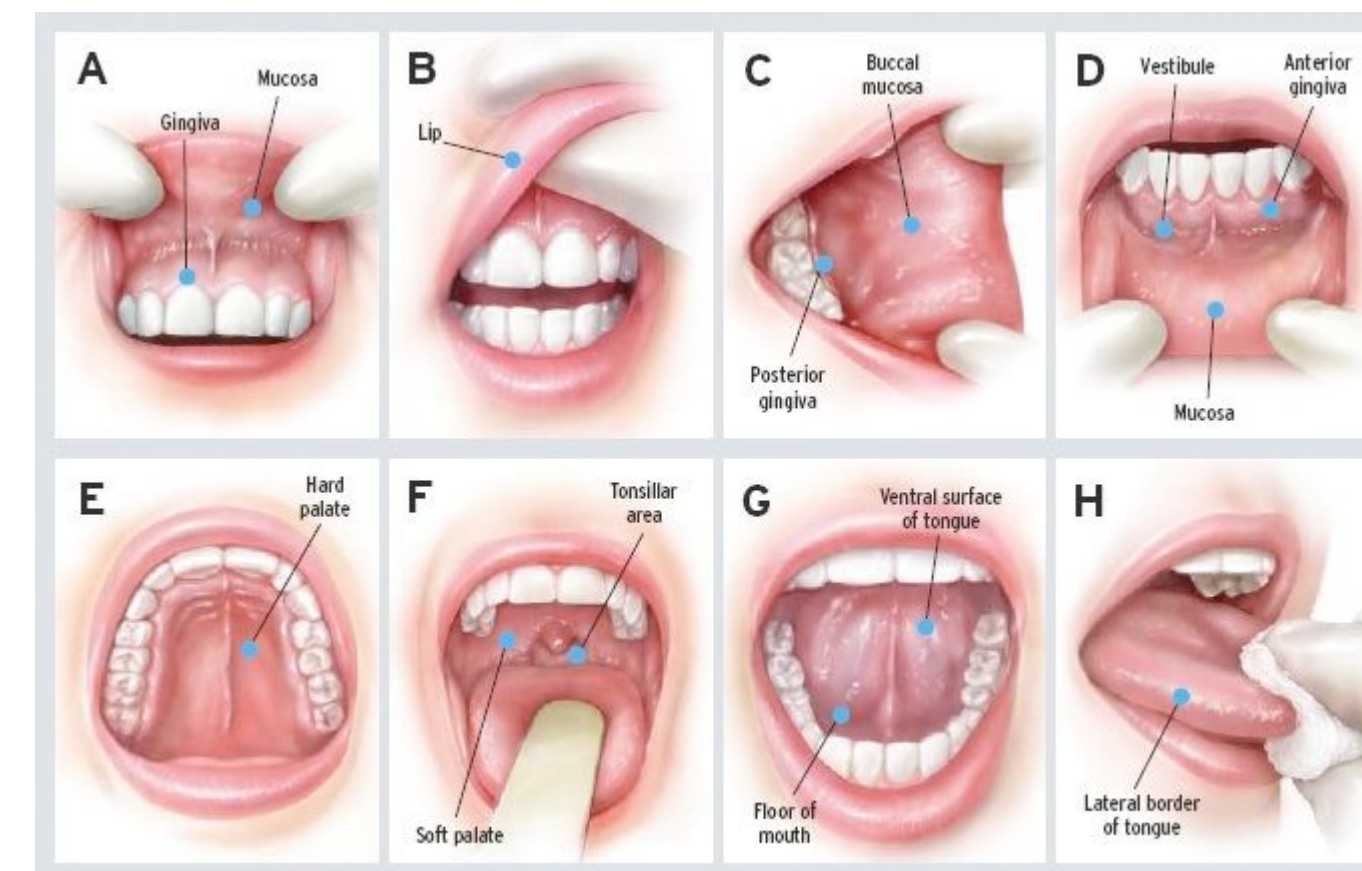


FIGURE 1. A brief screen for oral cancer includes this eight-step examination of the inside of the mouth.

Figure 1. Screening for oral cancer
<http://capitaldentistry.com/wp-content/uploads/Oral-Cancer-Screening.jpg>

Treatment

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation (used less often)
- Best approach combines two treatments

Factors Influencing Disparity

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

Data

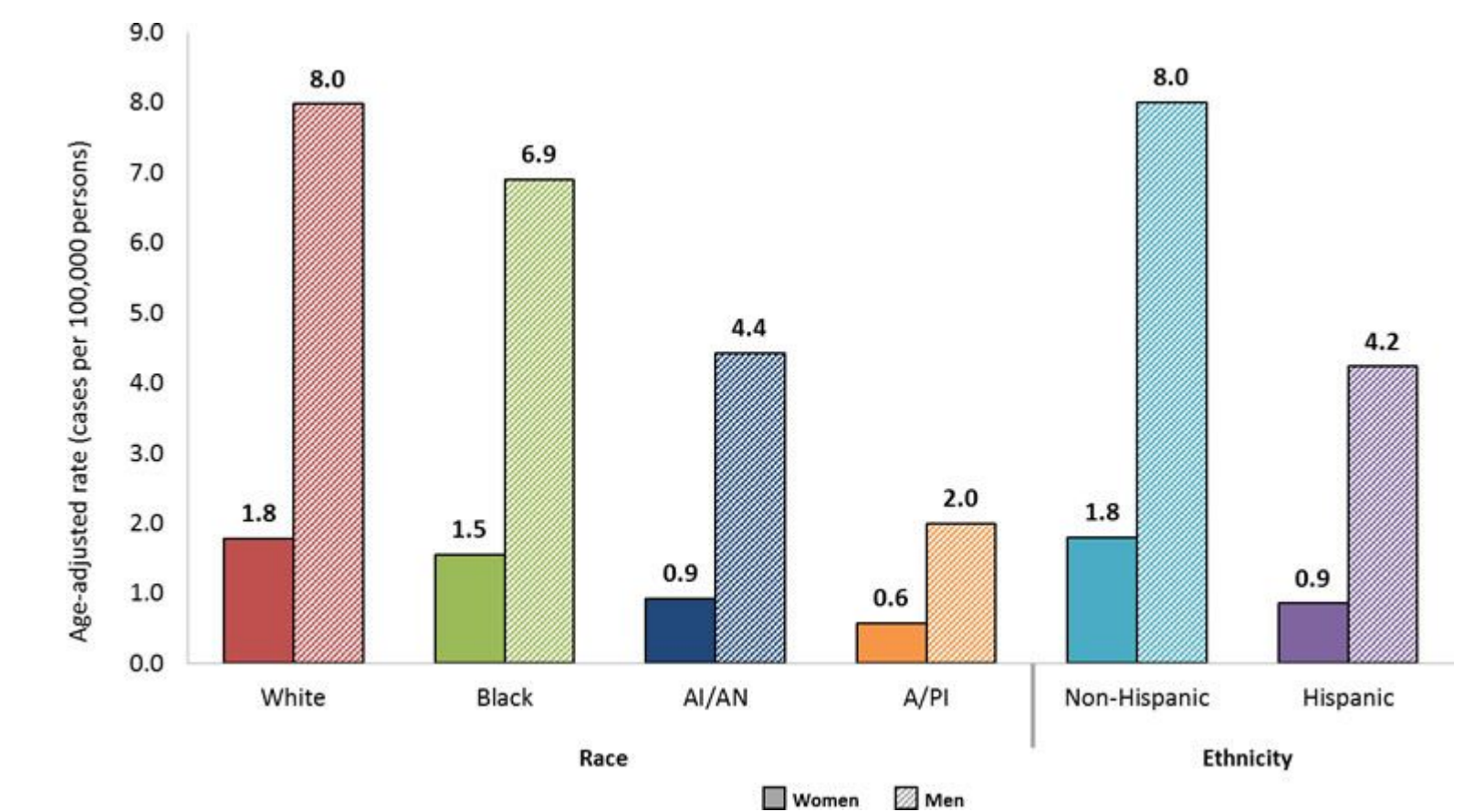


Figure 2. Incidence rates of HPV associated oral cancer 2008-2012
https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/images/chart_hn_rates.jpg

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