

# Gestational Trophoblastic Disease Prevalence Among African Americans

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## Purpose of Study

To examine the disparity in the prevalence of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD) in African Americans.

## Background Information

- GTD occurs in 1 out of 1,000-1,500 pregnancies every year, making it rare.
- GTD develops in several forms. All forms of GTD can be treated.
- GTD is a group of tumors that grow inside a woman's uterus.
- The tumors are made of cells called trophoblasts.
- Trophoblasts normally develop into a placenta during pregnancy.
- Tumors form when there is an abnormal number of chromosomes in a cell.
- Choriocarcinoma is a type of GTD that can spread to other parts of the body.

## Symptoms

- Vaginal bleeding
- Abdominal swelling
- Anemia
- Ovarian cysts
- Pre-eclampsia

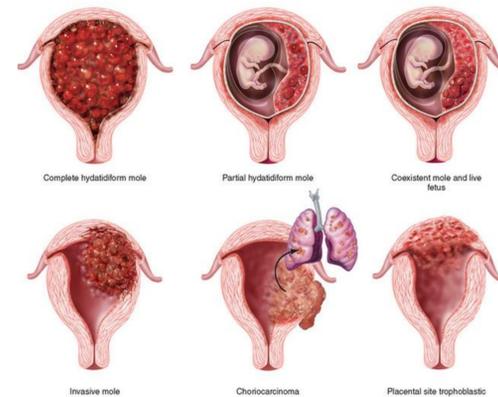


Figure 1. Subtypes of gestational trophoblastic disease. (www.radiologykey.com)

## Prevention and Screening

- Women with a history of GTD should speak with their doctors.
- The only way to truly prevent GTD is to avoid getting pregnant.

## Treatment

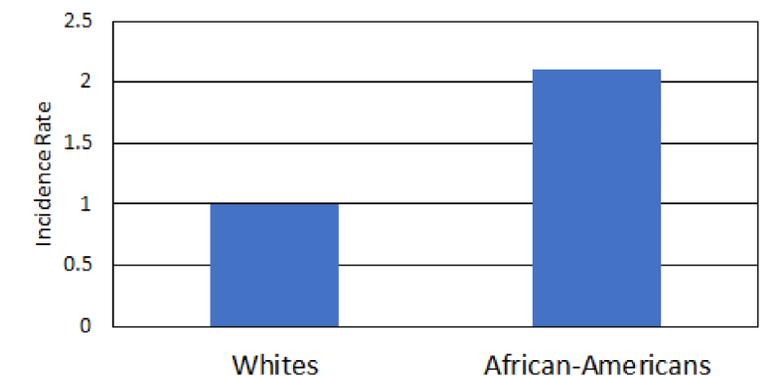
- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation (used less often)
- Best approach combines two treatments

## Factors Influencing Disparity

- Not visiting doctor because of lack of trust.
- Access to preventative care.

## Data

### Choriocarcinoma in the US



African-Americans are 2.1 times more likely to get choriocarcinoma than whites. Asians can have an even greater risk (~9 fold). (Brinton et al. 1986)

## Addressing the Disparity

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

## References

1. Brinton LA et al. Am J Epidemiol. (1986) 123:1094.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
3. National Cancer Institute
4. National Institute of Health
5. [www.radiologykey.com](http://www.radiologykey.com)