

Liver Cancer Prevalence Among African Americans

UMB CURE
Scholars Program

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Purpose of Study

To examine the disparity in the prevalence of liver cancer in African Americans

Background Information

- Liver Cancer begins in the liver but can metastasize to other organs
- African-Americans with early stage liver cancer were more likely than white patients to die from their disease
- Incidence: 30 out of 100,000
- Incidence in African Americans: 1 in 78 males (1.28%), 1 in 209 females (0.48%)
- Incidence in Whites: 1 in 97 males (1.03%), 1 in 235 females (0.43%)
- The most significant risk factor for liver cancer is infection with Hepatitis C and B
 - You can get the virus by sharing contaminated needles, unprotected sex, and childbirth
- Another risk factor is cirrhosis, damage of the liver cells, typically due to alcoholism or hepatitis

Symptoms

- Weight loss
- Decrease in appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Abdominal swelling
- Enlarged Liver/Spleen
- Jaundice (Yellowing)

Liver PRETEXT Stage 1

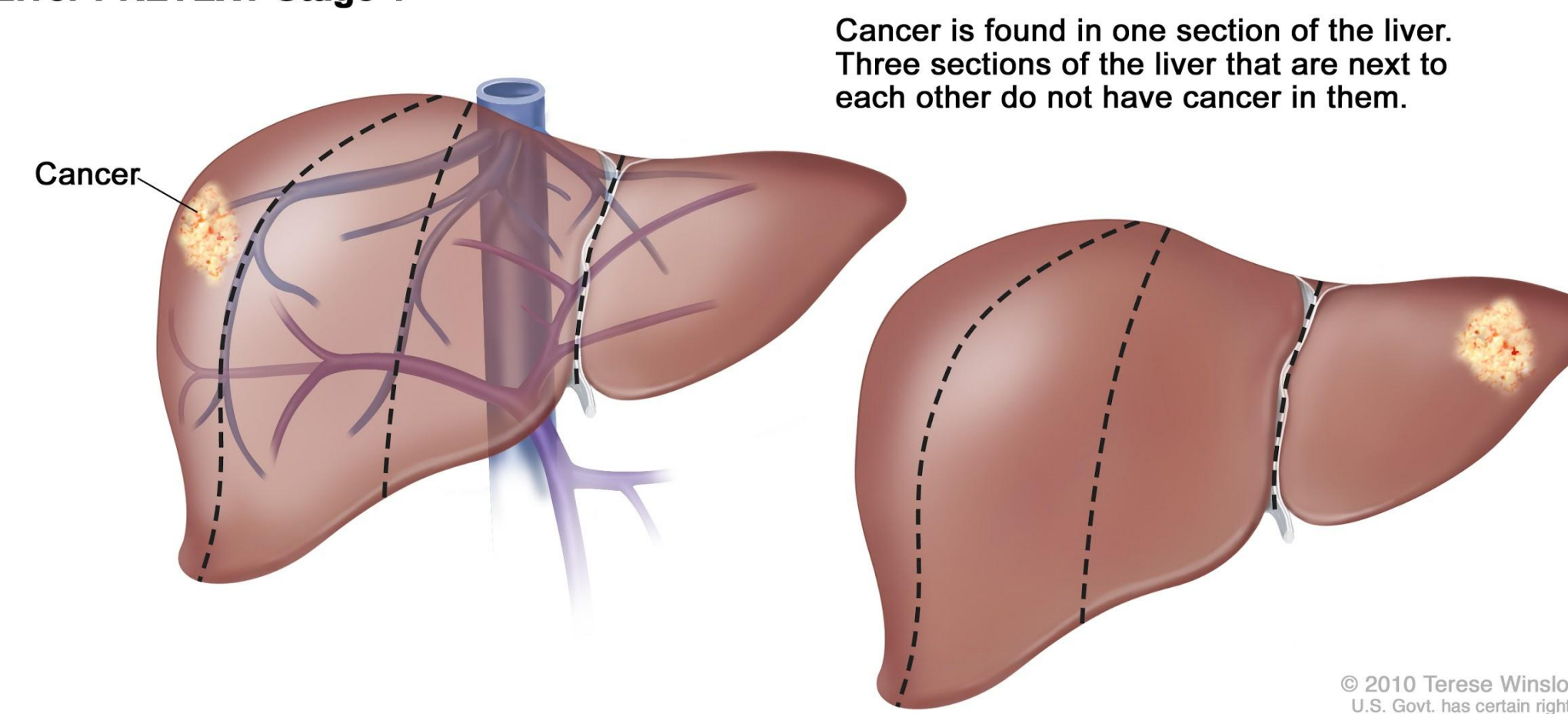


Figure 1. Location of Liver Cancer. Source: Curetoday.com

Prevention and Screening

- Avoid excessive alcohol and Hepatitis
- People at higher risk for liver cancer (cirrhosis or hepatitis) should have blood tests and ultrasound exams every 6 to 12 months

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

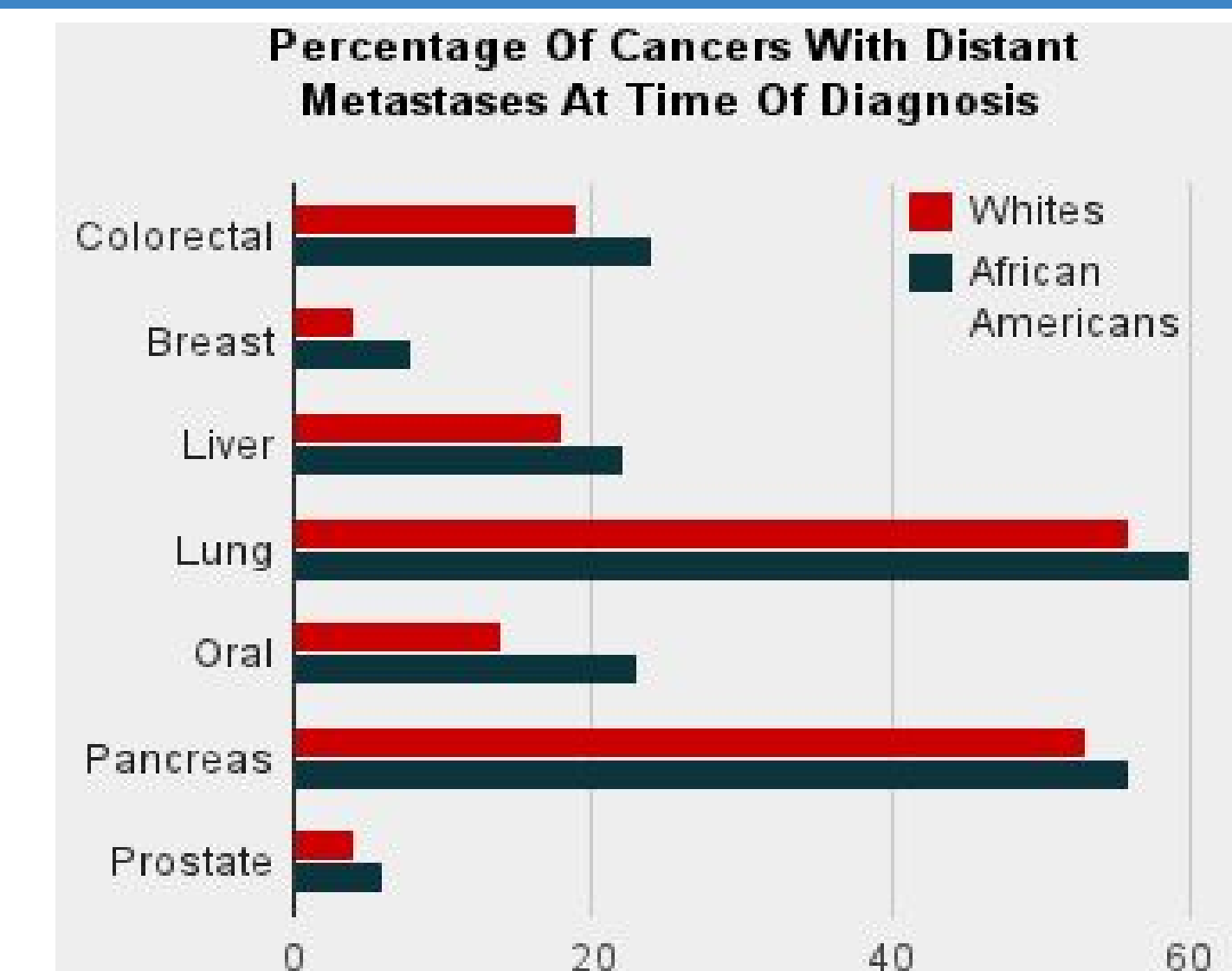


Figure 2. Incidence rates of cancer

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. Cancer Treatment Centers for America
5. CureToday.com
6. University of Michigan Health System
7. American Cancer Society