

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: IN THIS SECTION CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND DIABETES

Keith C. Norris, MD

In this section of *Ethnicity & Disease*, we offer articles related to cardiovascular disease. We hope that a glance through the topics and summaries will provide a quick review to help prioritize the information according to the reader's needs.

Utility of a Surrogate Measure of Insulin Resistance in American Indians: The Strong Heart Study

Helaine E. Resnick, PhD, MPH; Richard N. Bergman, PhD; Jeffrey A. Henderson, MD; Patricia Nez-Henderson, MD, MPH; Barbara V. Howard, PhD

The homeostasis assessment (HOMA) model is an alternative method for estimating insulin resistance (HOMA IR) that uses fasting insulin and fasting glucose. Resnick et al report that, by using a simple algebraic expression, this simplified method was able to estimate insulin resistance among non-diabetic American Indians in the Strong Heart Study. Since these two measures are commonly collected in epidemiologic studies and readily available to clinicians, HOMA IR may be a useful tool for the identification of non-diabetic individuals who are insulin resistant, a group of patients who may benefit from early CVD risk factor modification.

Differential Impact of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Risk Factor Clustering on CVD and Renal Disease Among African-American and White Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

John H. Summerson, MS; Ronny A. Bell PhD, MS; Joseph C. Koenen MD, MSPH; John G. Spangler MD, MPH

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors were examined in 323 African-American and White adult patients with type 2 diabetes. Using a cross-sectional study design, Summerson and colleagues report that the clustering of 3 or more CVD risk factors was more predictive for renal disease and CVD among African Americans. This finding has potential implications in screening strategies, especially if these observations are verified in long-term prospective trials.

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: IN THIS SECTION CANCER

Keith C. Norris, MD

In this section of *Ethnicity & Disease*, we offer articles related to cancer research. We hope that a glance through the topics and summaries will provide a quick review to help prioritize the information according to the reader's needs.

Black-White Differences in Tumor Grade (Aggressiveness) at Diagnosis of Prostate Cancer, 1992–1998

Anthony P. Polednak, PhD

Several studies have suggested that genetic factors could be involved in prostate cancer tumor grade in Blacks and Whites. Using a multiple logistic regression model, Polednak evaluated Black-White differences in the proportion of high-grade cancers among the 126,889 non-Hispanic White and 20,247 Black patients with prostate cancer diagnosed during 1992–1998 and reported to the US National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program. Black-White differences decreased over time and by 1998 no differences were apparent, suggesting trends in Black-White prostate cancer grade differences may mirror trends in prostate cancer screening rates rather than represent genetic-based variations.

Health Literacy, Cervical Cancer Risk Factors, and Distress in Low-Income African-American Women Seeking Colposcopy

Lisa K. Sharp, PhD; Jill M. Zurawski, MD; Phillip Y. Roland, MD; Cheryl O'Toole, MSW; Jane Hines, RN

Using a cross-sectional, prospective cohort design Sharp et al evaluated the relationship between health literacy, distress, and cervical cancer risk factors in 130 African-American women (18 years of age or older) who were referred for colposcopy following abnormal Pap testing. After controlling for covariates, low health literacy was related to fewer risk factors and higher levels of distress. Since distress may serve as a barrier to treatment, culturally informed, effective interventions are needed.

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: IN THIS SECTION PRIMARY CARE/FAMILY MEDICINE

Keith C. Norris, MD

In this section of *Ethnicity & Disease*, we offer articles related to primary care and family medicine. We hope that a glance through the topics and summaries will provide a quick review to help prioritize the information according to the reader's needs.

Patterns and Correlates of Alcohol Consumption Among African-American Women

Lynn Rosenberg, ScD; Julie R. Palmer, ScD; R. Sowmya Rao, PhD; Lucile L. Adams-Campbell, PhD

Assessing demographic, medical, and behavioral factors from 64,500 African-American women, aged 21–69 years and enrolled in the Black Women's Health Study, Rosenberg et al found that heavy alcohol consumption was associated with smoking and lower levels of education. Alcoholic beverage consumption in later life is strongly related to early patterns and reinforces the need for interventions to focus on adolescents and young women.

Mid-Life African-American Women with Type 2 Diabetes: Influence on Work and the Multicaregiver Role

Carolyn S. Cagle, PhD; Susan Appel, PhD; Anne H. Skelly, PhD; Lori Carter-Edwards, PhD

Using focus group methodology, Cagle and coworkers explored the perceptions of work and the multicaregiver role on diabetic self-management and personal coping in African-American women. Emerging themes discussed in detail include: family as core; work as survival; impaired role function; and inner-strengthening.

Healthy Growth: Project Description and Baseline Findings

In a cross-sectional analysis of the first assessment of a 5-year longitudinal project, Taylor et al evaluated 82 sixth-grade, African-American girls. They found that 52% percent of the 13-year-olds and 32% of the 12-year-olds had body mass index (BMI) greater than the 85th percentile for their age and sex. No relationship was found between BMI and blood pressure. Both BMI and physical inactivity were associated with breast stages. Physical activity was negatively related to fat calories intake and positively related to waist/thigh ratio. For this young population, the high prevalence of elevated BMI values and physical inactivity as potential indicators of future cardiovascular risk warrant further prospective evaluation.

Influence of Stereotyping in Smoking Cessation Counseling by Primary Care Residents

Kathryn I. Pollak, PhD; Elva M. Arredondo, MA; Kimberly S. H. Yarnall, MD; Isaac Lipkus, PhD; Evan Myers, MD, MPH; Maya McNeilly, PhD; Philip Costanzo, PhD

Pollak and coworkers examined the racial differences in the frequency in which 90 primary care residents addressed smoking cessation with patients. The researchers found that residents were very likely to address smoking cessation, regardless of patients' race. However, compared to residents assigned to an ethnic minority patient, residents assigned to a White patient were less likely to believe that the White patient would follow their advice and perceived more barriers to address smoking cessation. They suggest additional research on the role of stereotyping in medical settings is warranted.