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Type: Presentation

Title: Barriers to Pain Management in Arab American Cancer Patients

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Abstract: **Barriers to Pain Management in Arab American Cancer Patients**

**Conference**

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Pain is one of the most common symptoms associated with cancer. Patients' concerns or barriers to cancer pain management contribute to the undertreatment of cancer pain. Although patient barriers to cancer pain management are prevalent in the United States and other countries, no studies have documented barriers to cancer pain management in Arab Americans cancer patients. A framework of attitudinal barriers and quality of life will be used to guide this study. Purposes of this study are: 1) to describe the barriers to cancer pain management; 2) to examine the relationships between these barriers and patients' ratings of pain intensity, pain interference with function and acculturation level; and 3) to determine which factors predict patients' perceived barriers to cancer pain management. Design: In this descriptive correlational study a convenience sample of 200 patients will be recruited from the outpatient waiting room of a large urban cancer center in southeastern Michigan. Methods: Patients will complete the Arabic Brief Pain Inventory (ABPI), Arabic Barriers Questionnaire (ABQII), Arabic-speaking patients' Acculturation Scale (ASPAS), and a demographic questionnaire. Data will be analyzed using SPSS 16.0 statistical software. Descriptive statistics will be summarized as frequencies and percentages for categorical variables and means and standard deviations for continuous variables. Pearson's product moment correlations and Student's t-tests will be used to determine the relationships between study variables. A p-value of < 0.05 will be considered statistically significant. Findings: Study is in progress. Conclusions: The findings from this study will contribute significantly to the literature of cancer pain management, provide direction for assessing cancer patients at high risk for having negative pain beliefs, and allow for cross-cultural comparisons. Moreover, findings can be used in planning and testing interventions to understand and improve patient's attitude to cancer pain management in Arabic patients. Key words: Attitudinal barriers, cancer pain, cancer pain management, Arab American. Note - Funded by Sigma Theta Tau International Lambda Chapter Research Grant Award

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