

GOVERNANCE

Examining the frequency of colorectal cancer screening in colorectal cancer patients at a community hospital setting in Taiwan

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Background: For the sixth consecutive year, colorectal cancer (CRC) remains the most prevalent cancer amongst Taiwanese males and the second most prevalent amongst Taiwanese women. Only in the last decade has Taiwan seen a significant increase of their CRC screening rates, going from 11.2% in 2007 to 38.2% of the eligible screening population in 2015. However during this time period, there have been very few studies published focusing on the acceptance CRC screening in patients in community hospital settings and its effects on prognoses of CRC. Studies into this topic may aid the focus of government-supported screening efforts to improve prognosis of CRC in Taiwan.

Methods: Data was collected from 76 patients diagnosed with CRC during the years 2013-2015 at the Taipei Hospital, one of the 17 community municipal hospitals in Taiwan. Exclusion criteria included patients outside of the screening recommendation age range (n=6), or had insufficient charting to determine method of diagnosis (n=4). Data was obtained by reviewing charts of patients diagnosed with CRC acquired from the Taipei Hospital and recording data relating to cancer severity, method of diagnosis, and screening frequency in these patients.

Findings: Of the 66 patients, only 9% of patients (n=6) were diagnosed through regular immunological fecal occult blood test (iFOBT) CRC screening. The other 60 patients were diagnosed during patient visits due to CRC-related symptoms (n=57) or found during work-ups of non-related problems (n=3). Patients who were symptomatic at the time of diagnosis typically had later stage cancers (Stage 2 or higher) than those who had been screened through the iFOBT test (p=0.0004). Of those who were symptomatic and had metastasis information available (n=45), 57.8% of patients had CRC that had spread to regional lymph nodes or distant organ metastatic sites at the time of diagnosis.

Interpretation: This study suggests that a majority of colorectal cancer patients in Taiwanese community hospitals such as the Taipei Hospital do not go through regular CRC screening and that the majority of CRC cases in these settings are caught during advanced, symptomatic stages as a result of the lack of frequent screenings.

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Abstract #: 2.001_GOV

Good governance? The role of participatory health councils in Brazil

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Background: Participatory Health Councils (PHCs) were created by the Brazilian government to encourage citizen participation in

the creation and implementation of health policy. PHCs, now present in 98% of Brazilian cities operate at federal, municipal and local levels of government, and bring together a diverse group of citizen groups to monitor Brazil's health care system. Despite their expansive reach, few studies have provided evidence of their ability to offer meaningful opportunities to a truly diverse range of citizens and to influence decision-making in local health care settings.

Methods: We conducted a survey of the 12 local health centers (out of which the local Health Councils are run) that compose Health Regional I of Fortaleza, a midsize city in Northeastern Brazil. We interviewed the presidents of each health council, attended health council meetings and spoke with residents about their participation in and experiences with the health councils in their communities.

Findings: Differences were noted in the attendance and character of each of the health care councils. The twelve health council presidents had significantly different experiences leading up to their participation in the councils, and different expectations for what the councils could achieve. Individual councils also reported different levels of inclusiveness among participants, more or less transparent decision-making processes, and different levels of government support.

Interpretation: The heterogeneity among the 12 health councils we surveyed, suggests that even within one city region there can be wide variability in the effectiveness of Brazil's participatory health councils, and that the inclusion of a diverse array of community members may be correlated with the health councils' presidents' historical involvement in community activism.

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A Study on the incidence of AV shunt thrombosis during hemodialysis in a community hospital in Taiwan – Does more cannulation sites lead to decreased incidence of AV shunt thrombosis?

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Background: Taiwan has the world's highest prevalence of ESRD and dialysis at 2,902 per million. Treatment of hemodialysis is fully covered by Taiwan's Universal Healthcare System. It is desirable to encounter fewer complications to alleviate the burden on nephrologists and government funding. Thrombosis is a common complication that can lead to failed arteriovenous shunts (AV shunt). Treatment of clotted AV shunts at Taipei Hospital involves the use of tissue plasminogen activator (tPA). We hypothesized that patients with more injection sites for hemodialysis would have fewer incidences of clotted AV shunts and the need to use tPA in Taipei Hospital.