

EXPLORING PERCEPTIONS OF HEALTH CARE: COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING BARRIERS AMONG CHINESE-CANADIAN WOMEN

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Chinese-Canadian women's participation in the Alberta cancer screening service is low. This is likely because of the pre-assumption of linguistic barriers Chinese-Canadian women anticipate with the Canadian government colorectal cancer prevention screening services. Furthermore, the perceptions toward screening service access affecting the low screening rates are reported differently by Chinese-Canadian women and screening service professionals. Researchers explored the influence of screening service access of Chinese-Canadian women and professionals' perceptions towards the women's colorectal service access using a qualitative, ethnographic study. In addition, the researchers reviewed the literature and government health regulations and their relevance to Chinese-Canadian women's colorectal screenings. Using snowball sampling, 15 Chinese-Canadian women and 15 health service practitioners were interviewed by phone and asked to describe their screening service experiences. The following themes emerged: (1) communication and skill acquisition of Chinese-Canadian women and health care providers; (2) education of health professionals in cultural competency; (3) collaboration between Chinese-Canadian women and health providers (including governmental agencies); and (4) promotion of equality of colorectal health care services. The findings are discussed and recommendations are provided to improve screening service access and screening rates of Chinese-Canadian women.

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The Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada (2010) reported the screening rate for early detection of colorectal cancer is low in Chinese-Canadian women. This is the case despite research projections in a public health review that identified non-colorectal screening individuals as possessing a higher incidence of colorectal cancer. Cummings (2007) mentioned limited screening access is solely due to screening barriers created by minority individuals' knowledge and beliefs. Kelly, Dickinson, Degrafinreid, Tatum, and Paskett (2007) as well as