Reducing Prostate Cancer Morbidity and Mortality in African American Men: Issues and Challenges

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Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men in the United States. It disproportionately affects African American men when compared to other ethnic groups. African American men are two to three times more likely to die of prostate cancer than white men. The reasons for the disparity remain unclear, but several factors may be involved, such as age, race, nationality, nutrition, exercise, and family history of cancer. Detection of prostate cancer in high-risk African Americans is important but continues to be controversial. This article reviews the current issues and challenges regarding prostate cancer in African American men. Nurses play a vital role in the health care and education of patients; therefore, they must be aware of the issues.

At a Glance

- Prostate cancer disproportionately affects African American men when compared to other ethnic groups.
- Despite decades of healthcare advances, prostate cancer treatment continues to have complications that may affect patients physically and psychosocially.
- Awareness of current issues regarding prostate cancer in African Americans will inform nurses who care for individuals at high risk.

Prostate cancer affects all population groups. However, when incidence, mortality, and survival rates are compared by race and ethnicity, African American men are shown to bear a disproportionate burden. Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer diagnosed in African American men and the second most common cause of cancer-related death. The ACS