Evaluating Effective Communication and Thorough Explanation in Promoting Participation in Clinical Research

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Evaluating Effective Communication and Thorough Explanation in Promoting Participation in Clinical Research

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INTRODUCTION

The historic gender disparity in participation in clinical research has caused many difficulties in generalizing research study results. This pilot conducted at at LVHN Center for Women's Medicine is a part of the first multi-center study, aiming to –

- Explore perceived barriers and motivators to women’s participation in clinical research
- Find strategies to enhance recruitment and supportive resources to facilitate women’s participation

Results were collected through surveys which sought out basic demographic information and attitudinal statements regarding clinical trials in a 0 – 4 Likert scale.

METHODS

The survey was designed, tested and approved by IRB.

Data were entered and analyzed using Excel. Mean, SD and Chi-square were used.

The survey was translated into Spanish, Traditional and Simplified Chinese.

Bilingual research scholars introduced the study to female patients at CWM.

Eligible female patients agreed to participate and completed the survey.

RESULTS

A total of 400 female patients participated over a period of 5 weeks. Among them,

- 74.3% self-identified minorities
- 23.5% did not speak English at home
- 16.3% had difficulties speaking English

Evaluating factors in a 0 – 4 Likert scale,

- 2.95 motivation rate – “how well the research study was explained to me"
- 2.62 helpfulness rate – supportive resources
- 2.89 helpfulness rate – “having all material provided in my language”

DISCUSSION

Through analysis of data collected from a diverse population, we found –

- A positive correlation between “distrust in doctors” and “how well the research study was explained,” suggesting language barrier could be a source of mistrust, and trust could be built through better communication and explanation.
- Women from all backgrounds are open to supportive resources to facilitate their participation, especially those that ensure effective communication with the doctors/researchers.

Suggestions for future study:

- Avoid any tension created for non-English speaker – initiate the process in different languages
- Administer the survey in a more in different clinical settings for more diverse population

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REFERENCES


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