Diversity Project: Factors Influencing Participation in Clinical Research

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Diversity Project: Factors Influencing Participation in Clinical Research

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Introduction/Background

- The purpose of this study is to investigate the motivating factors influencing participation in clinical research.
- Race/Ethnicity and gender will be specifically examined to determine if they are major contributors to the disparity seen in clinical research.
- Historically, Caucasian patients are more likely to participate in clinical research compared to African-American or Latin American patients. Males have a higher participation rate in clinical research compared to females.
- Although it is known that women and minorities have participated less in clinical research, there have been no specific studies conducted that involve large patient populations across different specialties of medicine.
- The survey focuses on what differences exist between genders and between races and ethnicities with regards to barriers that may prevent and factors that may motivate patients to participate in clinical research.

Methods

- An IRB approved survey identifying demographics and attitudes towards motivating factors, barriers, and promotional tools regarding participation in clinical research was developed.
- No identifiers or Protected Health Information was collected.
- Clinics/outpatient facilities within the Lehigh Valley Health Network were contacted to obtain permission to administer patient surveys in the waiting room.
- The survey was conducted at Family Medicine facilities including Bethlehem Family Medicine, Lehigh Family Medicine Associate, Lehigh Valley Family Health Center, Community Wellness Center.
- The survey was administered after gaining consent from the patients.
- Survey responses were saved in a password-protected database available only to the PI and research coordinator.

Results

Patients were asked to score each factor based on whether it would motivate them to participate in a clinical research study. The scores went from 0-4 with 0 being defined as No Motivation and 4 being defined as Most Motivation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>How well the research study is explained to me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>My desire to please the doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>A friend or family member participating in the same study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The doctor conducting the research is the same gender (sex) as me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The doctor conducting the research is the same race/ethnicity as me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The doctor conducting the research speaks the same language as I do</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

- The most important motivating factor for patients across all four demographics was how well the research study is explained to them and thus should be the focus of future researchers when recruiting patients for clinical trials.
- Limitations included a survey-based method dependent on the response rate of the patients, a small sample size, and patients from only one specialty.
- Future goals include expanding the project into different specialties, increasing the total number of patient surveys, and reaching a consensus on the most helpful resources to reach a more equitable and diverse clinical research participation rate.

REFERENCES


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