

Hispanic Patient Navigation and *Esperanza y Vida*:

A Culturally Appropriate Strategy to
Address Disparities in Cancer Care



Arkansas Cancer Summit X
March 31, 2009

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Hispanics in the United States

- Fastest growing immigrant group in the U.S.
- Largest immigrant group in Arkansas
 - Settling mostly in rural areas
- Over 50% monolingual Spanish-speakers

Breast Cancer and Hispanic Women

- Most common cancer among Hispanic women
- Diagnosed at later stage
 - More metastatic disease
- Less likely to participate in breast cancer screenings and often delay treatment

Cervical Cancer and Hispanic Women

- Cervical cancer is twice as common in Hispanic women than non-Hispanic White women
- Diagnosed at later stage
- Less likely to participate in cervical cancer screenings
- Limited data on recent immigrants

What Issues are Hispanics Facing?

- Limited Access to Care
 - Insurance
 - Socioeconomic Status
- Acculturation
 - Years in the U.S.
 - Language Barriers
- Immigration Status
- Fear and Fatalistic Beliefs



Familias saludables empiezan
con mujeres saludables

Study Design

- Educational Cancer Programs
 - Rural / Urban sites
 - Arkansas and New York
- Pre and Post Test Knowledge
- 2-Month, 8-Month, and Annual Follow Up
- Direct Patient Navigation

Educational Program Components

- Breast /Cervical Cancer Role Models
 - Discuss personal stories; stories from the field
- Lay Health Educators
 - Present Breast and Cervical Cancer Facts, Risk Factors, Screening Guidelines, Community Resource Guides
- *Esperanza y Vida* Patient Navigators
 - Ensure female participants receive timely screening exams, diagnoses, and treatment

Esperanza y Vida

Patient Navigators

- Trained, bilingual, culturally competent healthcare workers who work with patients, families, physicians and the healthcare system to ensure the needs of the patient are appropriately and effectively addressed
- Act as the vital link between the medical team and the patient

What do *Esperanza y Vida* Patient Navigators Do?

- Enroll eligible women in local, state, and federally funded screening programs
- Schedule and coordinate appointments
- Prepare patients for screening exams, follow-up appointments, and cancer treatment
- Provide language translation and interpretation services

What Else Do *Esperanza y Vida* Patient Navigators Do?

- Provide transportation if needed
- Facilitate access to available financial support and assist with related paperwork
- Coordinate follow-up to community outreach support services when necessary
- Collaborate with BreastCare Care Coordinators

Benefits of Patient Navigation

- Promotes screening and treatment with no delay and aims to ensure seamless, coordinated care and services for patients and their families
- Identifies, anticipates, and alleviates barriers that Hispanic patients encounter
- Increases patient and clinical staff satisfaction

Benefits of Patient Navigation

- Prevents patients from “falling through the cracks”
- Offers disadvantaged cancer patients someone who has the knowledge base and confidence the patient might not possess
- Ensures that cancer patients are not shortchanged in their options or health care

Limitations of Patient Navigation

- Dependence on Navigator
- Lack of Self-Reliance
- Misunderstanding of Patient Navigation Services
- Word-of-Mouth Phenomenon
- Sustainability

How Can YOU Help Us?

- Promote patient navigation interventions
- Hire bilingual clinical and administrative staff
- Consider Potential Transportation-Navigation Costs (when applying for funding)
- Provide culturally sensitive training for healthcare professionals

Thank you!

Questions?

Acknowledgements

- American Cancer Society
- University of Arkansas Medical Sciences
- Our Patient Navigators:

Susy Hannigan, Northwest Arkansas

Elvira Aguirre, Central Arkansas