DOES RACIAL DIFFERENCE EXIST IN EMS AND HOSPITAL CARE AMONG PATIENTS WHO DIED FROM CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE?

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BACKGROUND

Racial disparity in hospital treatments and outcomes has been discussed in various literature. But few tracked throughout the health care system, from EMS to hospitals, and to deaths.

This study uses linked Nebraska state-wide EMS, hospital discharge and mortality data to examine whether racial differences exist in EMS and/or hospital care among patients who died from cardiovascular disease (CVD).

DEFINITION

CVD mortality: any of the death diagnosis (ICD-10) fell in the range of I00 to I99.

RESULTS

About 3% of the CVD mortalities were found at EMS scene; the other 7% of the CVD mortalities occurred at hospital. Most (90%) of the patients who died from CVD did not receive either EMS or hospital care right before their deaths (Table 1).

Table 1 Number of CVD Mortalities by Presence of EMS and/or Hospital Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMS and/or Hospital</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Linked to EMS data</th>
<th>Linked to Hospital Data</th>
<th>Linked to Death Data</th>
<th>Died at EMS Scene</th>
<th>Died at Hospital</th>
<th>Died outside of Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1,977</td>
<td>1,369</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>1,369</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>5,288</td>
<td>1,977</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>5,288</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>56.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EMS transport time: from 911 call to patient arriving at hospital. Blacks and Asians were more likely to have inconsistent EMS impression and hospital primary diagnosis (figure 5). The presence of EMS and hospital care was cross-tailored by race, as reported in death certificate data. EMS run time and consistency of EMS and hospital diagnosis were also compared across racial groups.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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