

# The Role of Numeracy on Cancer Screening Among Urban Women

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**Objectives:** To determine the role of numeracy on cancer screening knowledge and practices among an ethnically diverse population. **Methods:** Women aged 40+ presenting for primary care at an urban academic medical center were surveyed. Numeracy was measured as a dichotomous outcome (numerate: yes/no) using 3 criteria adapted from a validated instrument. Self-report was used to determine if women were up-to-date with breast and colorectal cancer screening. **Results:** Ad-

equated numeracy was associated with increasing age, white race, higher education, and knowledge of breast cancer screening guidelines. No association was found between numeracy and cancer screening practices. **Conclusions:** Adequate numeracy was not a key determinant of cancer screening.

**Key words:** numeracy, literacy, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, and screening.

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