

Influence of Coping With Prostate Cancer Threat on Frequency of Digital Rectal Examinations

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Objectives: To determine the role of personality variables in coping with cancer threat in the receipt of digital rectal examinations among men from 7 ethnic subpopulations composing 3 major ethnic groups. **Methods:** Three hundred eight men were assessed on how often they obtained digital rectal exams and their likelihood of coping with a hypothetical cancer diagnosis. **Results:** There were ethnic disparities in screening frequency that were not accounted for by demographic/background variables. Coping styles that reflect problem solv-

ing, use of social support, and avoidance provided unique and additional variance in understanding these disparities. **Conclusions:** Cancer researchers and educators must account for heterogeneity within typical major ethnic groups, as well as consider the role of personality variables, as they differentially predict outcomes in ethnic subpopulations.

Key words: acculturation, coping styles, ethnic subpopulations, imagined prostate cancer diagnosis, digital rectal examinations

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