

The Influence of Wives, Partners, and Significant Others in Men's Prostate Cancer Screening

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Abstract

Introduction: Few studies have examined the influence of wives, partners, and significant others on men's decisions to visit the doctor for the prostate cancer screening tests. This study examined how often physicians report that persons close to men within screening ages influence these men to see the doctor for the prostate cancer screening tests.

Methods: The study collected information on physicians' attitudes, beliefs, and practices related to prostate cancer and screening. We examined the level of involvement of wives, partners, or significant others in influencing men to visit the physician's office for the screening tests, and the specific variables that might be associated with this influence.

Results: Findings from physician reports suggest that wives, partners, and significant others are involved more than half the time in influencing men to visit the doctor for the prostate cancer screening tests. Several physician and contextual variables were associated with the influence of wives, partners, and significant others in the multivariate model.

Conclusions: In light of the disagreement about prostate cancer screening efficacy, these findings may be helpful to healthcare practitioners as they interact with men who are considering prostate cancer screening.