Delays in Chemotherapy in the Asian Pacific Islander Population: A NCDB Review

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Methods

- Delays in adjuvant chemotherapy of greater than 120 days has been shown to lead to worse overall survival.
- Very little is known about the reasons for delays in the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) population, which comprises one of the fastest growing ethnicity groups in the United States.
- We used the National Cancer Database (NCDB) to review the associated factors leading to delays in chemotherapy within the API population.

Results

- Of the 9,247 patients that met inclusion criteria, 1,110 (12%) of patients had ≥120-days from diagnosis to adjuvant chemotherapy.
- Factors related to delays were patients living on the West coast compared to the Midwest, having lower socioeconomic status (SES), being uninsured, having stage 1 cancers, and being treated in an academic center.
- Increased time from diagnosis to surgery directly correlated with increased incidence of delays to chemotherapy.

Conclusions

- APIs comprise one of the fastest growing populations in the United States.
- Having lower SES, stage 1 cancer, and treatment in an academic facility, as well as being uninsured or treated on the West coast of the United States are related with delayed treatment.
- Further knowledge of factors related to delays in care provide opportunities for continued improvement in breast cancer management.

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