Cancer in the LGBT Community: Special Issues and Concerns

November 17, 2011

Featured Speakers

• Stephanie V. Blank, MD
  • Women’s Cancer Program
  • New York University School of Medicine

• Cristina Moldow, LMSW
  • Program Coordinator for The Lesbian Cancer Initiative

Conflict of Interest Statement

The speakers and their viewpoints represent no conflicts of interest.

Evaluations

Nursing Contact Hours, CME and CHES credits are available. Please visit www.phlive.org to fill out your evaluation and complete the post-test.

Thank you!

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• University at Albany School of Public Health
• New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Control, Cancer Survivorship Initiatives
• The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center of New York City
• The National LGBT Cancer Network

Learning Objectives

At the end of this broadcast, the learner will be able to:

• Identify barriers to health care faced by those in the LGBT community
• Identify increased risks for cancer among specific LGBT populations
• Increase knowledge of appropriate cancer screenings and preventive care for LGBT individuals
• Learn about culturally-sensitive strategies which have helped to reduce barriers to cancer care among this population

Cancer and the LGBT Community

Cristina Moldow, LMSW, Program Coordinator for The Lesbian Cancer Initiative

LGBT Risk Factors and Key Issues Re: Cancer

• Greater concentration of risk factors among LGBT’s
• Greater concentration of barriers to healthcare and cancer screening
• Increased risk factors + lower screening rates = later detection = health disparity!!
  • No demographic data gathered in healthcare facilities or cancer registries
  • Very small field of research on these populations

Definition of Terms: Sex

Biological markers which are sex-specific including:

• Chromosomes
• Genetics
• Anatomy
• Genitalia,
• Hormones
• Secondary sex characteristics

Examples: female, male, intersex

Definition of Terms: Sexual Orientation

A person’s desires or attractions to others:

• Sexual
• Emotional
• Spiritual
• Affectional

Examples: lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, pansexual, queer
Definition of Terms: Gender Identity

A person's inner awareness of being male, female or something in between.

Examples:
- Male
- Female
- Trans-masculine
- Drag queen, -Androgynous
- Boi
- Gender-queer
- Gender neutral

Definition of Terms: Gender Role

A person's outward expression of themselves regardless of their gender identity.

Gender role can be expressed through:
- Dress
- Posture
- Actions

Traditional Gender Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organic markers:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hormones, genes,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genitals, secondary sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics. .</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender roles</td>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social expression:</td>
<td>Dress, posture, actions ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender identity</td>
<td>Man</td>
<td>Woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self conception:</td>
<td>&quot;I am ...&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual orientation</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attracted to ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Authentic Gender Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Male (Intersex)</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organic markers:</td>
<td>hormones, genes, genitals, secondary sex characteristics, genes ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Role</td>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>Androgynous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social expression:</td>
<td>Dress, posture, actions and behavior ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender identity</td>
<td>Unique</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self conception:</td>
<td>&quot;I am ...&quot;</td>
<td>Unique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual orientation</td>
<td>Attracted to ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LGBT Risk factors and Behavior

- Increased rates of alcohol and tobacco use
- Tendency toward being overweight and obesity, and more sedentary lifestyle
- Unprotected sex
- Reproductive patterns
- Transgender hormone use

Barriers to Care and Screening

- Cost
- Inadequate insurance coverage
- Fear of discrimination
- Past discrimination
- Community history of abuse and violence
- Provider lack of awareness
- Provider bias
Barriers to “Coming Out”

- Fear of discrimination
- Past negative experiences
- Don’t ask, don’t tell
- Clients/patients are already vulnerable and dependent on providers

Successful Strategies for Engaging LGBT People

- Inclusion opportunities
  - Use inclusive language
  - Create an inclusive environment
- Engage LGBT people with respect for their choices
  - Mirror the language they use to describe themselves
  - Mirror the language they use to describe their relationships
  - Respect transgender people’s choice of name, gender and pronouns used to describe themselves.

Successful Strategies for Engaging LGBT People

- Develop or supply literature and other material with messaging that is designed specifically for the needs and concerns of LGBT people
- Be open to each person’s uniqueness
- Recognize your own biases and don’t let them interfere with your duty to provide quality care to everyone
- Provide repeat training around LGBT cultural competency

The Cancer Doctor and the LGBT Community: Overcoming Barriers to Care

Stephanie V. Blank, MD
Women’s Cancer Program
New York University School of Medicine

Overview

- LGBT patients in your practice
  - Who are they?
- LGBT patients and access to care
- LGBT patients and cancer risk
- Improving the care you provide

Knowing your LGBT patient

- What percentage of your patients are LGBT?
- How do you know if your patient is LGBT?
  - They tell you
  - You ask directly
  - Rumor / assumption
  - Intake forms
  - Other ways?
- LGBT population estimated at 10%
- Only 49% of LGBT patients come out to providers (67% of gay men, 55% of lesbians, 23% bisexual people, ?% transgender people)
Cannot truly estimate prevalence of cancer in the LGBT community because health research does not ask participants to identify their sexual orientation.

**Pilot Review of a Gynecologic Oncology Practice**
- One of five practitioners routinely asked about sexual orientation
- Marital status—single, married, divorced, life partner
- Sexual orientation misrepresented in charts, often not directly addressed

**Coming out to Healthcare Provider**
More than one in five LGBT people withhold information about their sexual practices from their healthcare provider.

**Impediment to Coming Out to Healthcare Provider**

**Comfort with Healthcare Provider**
- LGBT people report negative experiences with healthcare providers
- Fear that disclosure of sexuality will negatively impact care

**Why Providers Need to Know**
- Knowledge of risk factors for cancer
- Sexuality and fertility discussions are appropriate
- Awareness of client's support system
- Accurate sexual history
- Builds patient's trust in your facility
- Many LGBT patients are more likely to receive or continue medical care if they believe they will be treated with full respect.
Health Care Disparities in the LGBT Community

- Underutilize primary care
- Less likely to seek preventative care
- Reticent to seek prompt health evaluations
- 28% of LGBT patients postpone seeking care when sick or injured

Elevated Cancer Risk in LGBT Community

- No biological or physiological basis
- Due to social/economic factors and behaviors

Elevated Cancer Risk in LGBT Community

- Obesity
- Nulliparity
- Later parity
- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Lower rate of oral contraceptive use

Unique Screening Concerns For Transgender People

- When a person's sex and gender identity are different, appropriate screenings may not take place, be recommended or be reimbursed
- Practitioners may not be familiar with this population and inadvertently misuse pronouns
- Transgender people may have body parts that providers don't expect
- Transgender people may have body parts that do not relate to their gender identity

Medical School Curriculum and LGBT Health Concerns

- Realization that every healthcare provider will care for LGBT people
- Students and faculty coming out and advocating for LGBT concerns
- Another cultural competency to be learned

What Providers Can Do:

- ASK
- Intake forms
- Language
- Don't make assumptions
- Acknowledge and include partner
Recommendations on LGBT Health....

- Healthy People 2020:
  - HHS makes specific recommendations regarding health needs of the LGBT community

- Institute of Medicine Report 2011:
  - IOM issues consensus report regarding LGBT health

What is the Cancer Services Program?

- The Cancer Services Program (CSP) provides breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings at NO COST to men and women who:
  - Do not have health insurance OR whose health insurance does not cover the cost of these screenings
  - Cannot pay for these screenings
  - Meet age requirements
  - Live in New York State
  - Call 1-866-442-CANCER (2262)

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