

'Exploring Factors Influencing Healthcare Access and Quality Among Arthritis Patients : An Analysis

Rehab A Alharbi, M.Sc., La'Marcus Wingate, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Salome Bwayo Weaver, Pharm.D., BCGP, FASCP, Edmund Essah Ameyaw, PhD, Amusa S. Adebayo, PhD. Howard University College of Pharmacy, Washington, DC

INTRODUCTION

- Arthritis is a common condition of disability and chronic pain in United States. Leading to discomfort, fatigue, and joint dysfunction all of which contribute to decreased quality of life in patients.^{1,2}
- Arthritis can have a substantial impact on individuals and the function. During 2019–2021, 21.2% of U.S. adults (53.2 mill reported diagnosed arthritis.³
- In this study, we will determine the factors that contribute healthcare access and quality among arthritis patients in the USA
- Access to care is an important social health determinant affecti health outcomes. It includes the availability, and affordability medical care. Limited access to care can lead to delayed inadequate treatment, resulting in poorer health outcomes a higher healthcare costs.

OBJECTIVE

This study aims to identify the factors affecting healthcare acc and quality for arthritis patients in The U.S.A., using MEPS 2020.

METHODS

- This study utilizes data from the Medical Expenditure Pa Survey (MEPS) for the year 2020. MEPS is a national representative survey conducted by the Agency for Healthca Research and Quality (AHRQ) that collects detailed informat on healthcare utilization, expenditures, and insurance covera for the U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.⁴
- The study sample includes adult patients (aged 18 years older) with arthritis. The identification of arthritis in the sample based on the presence of corresponding codes (ARTHDX) in MEPS code book, which are assigned to all healthc encounters.
- The statistical analysis for this study involved conducting both single and multiple logistic regression models using R. In these mod The outcome of this aim is "Delayed Medical Care due to COVID-(CVDLAYCAS53) which identifies individuals who experien delays in receiving medical care (coded as "Yes" = delay, "No" = delay).
- Independent variables are age, gender, marital status, insurance coverage, delayed medical care due to COVID19, type arthritis, Hypertension diagnosis, Diabetes diagnosis, cholest diagnosis, and cancer.

RESULTS

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CONCLUSION

• These findings highlight the need to customize strategies that address the barriers and improve healthcare access for arthritis patients, particularly those with cancer.

• Furthermore, strategies for arthritis patients should consider gender and marital status as these factors can also impact healthcare utilization.

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DISCLOSURE PANEL

Authors of this presentation have the following to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation:

La'Marcus Wingate, Pharm.D., Ph.D Salome Weaver, Pharm.D., BCGP

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