



Cystic Fibrosis Research News

Article citation:

Buu M, Sanders L, Mayo J, Milla C, Wise P. Assessing differences in mortality rates and risk factors between Hispanic and non-Hispanic patients with cystic fibrosis in California. *Chest* 2016; 149 (2):380-389. PMID: 26086984

What was your research question? (50 words maximum)

We wanted to understand patterns of death rates and risk factors for poor health outcomes among Hispanic patients with CF compared with non-Hispanic patients over the last 20 years.

Why is this important? (100 words maximum)

Because of a growing Hispanic population in the United States and increased awareness of CF in the Hispanic community, more Hispanic patients are being diagnosed with CF (7% in 2010). Hispanic patients with CF may have worse health outcomes because of increased risk factors. The health of Hispanic patients with CF compared to non-Hispanic patients with CF has not been well studied.

What did you do? (100 words maximum)

This study examines CF Foundation Patient Registry data of California residents with CF from 1991 to 2010. Ethnicity was self-reported. We looked at the patterns of mortality, or causes and rates of death, between Hispanic and non-Hispanic patients with CF. Investigators also looked at sex, income level, genetic mutations, and year of diagnosis.

What did you find? (100 words maximum)

The study found that of 1,719 patients, 485 (28.2%) self-identified as Hispanic. Compared with non-Hispanic patients, Hispanic patients had a higher mortality rate (9.1% vs. 3.3%) and a lower rate of survival 18 years after their diagnosis (75.9% vs 91.5%). Hispanic patients had an increased rate of death even after taking social factors (such as income level and access to health insurance) and CF risk factors (such as *Pseudomonas* infection and CF-related diabetes diagnosis) into account.

What does this mean and reasons for caution? (100 words maximum)

Hispanic patients with CF have a higher risk of death than non-Hispanic patients, even after adjusting for income level and CF disease severity.

What's next? (50 words maximum)



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Looking into what causes the differences in lung function and death rate among Hispanic and non-Hispanic patients with CF will help improve treatment decisions and the overall health of all patients with CF.