Addressing Disparities: The Alliance Breast Cancer Community-Based Program for Hispanic Women

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Background: The Alliance Breast Cancer (ABC) program is a community-based initiative developed and implemented to address the needs of Hispanic women faced with a cancer diagnosis or cancer survivorship issues. Disparities also affect the detection of breast cancer and a decreased chance for survival (Ramirez et al., 2013). Disparities also affect the treatment, survivors, and their loved ones; and in-home visits and screening assistance; a support group for women in cancer-related disparities among Hispanic women, and a lack of understanding about treatment options as well as become seriously ill, compared to their Caucasian counterparts (American Cancer Society, 2015a). These disparities are due, in part, to lack of access to adequate care, language barriers, lack of insurance, later stages of presentation, and a lack of understanding about treatment options (Juarez, Hurria, Uman, & Ferrel, 2013; Martinez-Ramos, Biggs, & Lozano, 2013).

Health disparities for Hispanic women span the continuum of care. Lower rates of early screening for Hispanic women and time delays to a definitive diagnosis can result in later detection of breast cancer and a decreased chance for survival (Ramirez et al., 2013). Disparities also affect the

Clear disparities in the health and survival experiences of Hispanic women with breast cancer persist. Cancer has replaced heart disease as the leading cause of death among Hispanics in the United States (American Cancer Society, 2015b), and breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic women (Buki et al., 2008). Although rates of breast cancer are lower for Hispanic women than for Caucasian or African American women, Hispanic women are more likely to have significant sequelae and die from breast cancer, as well as become seriously ill, compared to their Caucasian counterparts (American Cancer Society, 2015a). These disparities are due, in part, to lack of access to adequate care, language barriers, lack of insurance, later stages of presentation, and a lack of understanding about treatment options (Juarez, Hurria, Uman, & Ferrel, 2013; Martinez-Ramos, Biggs, & Lozano, 2013).

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