

ASSOCIATION OF PRESCRIPTION NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS (NSAID) USE WITH PATIENT-PROVIDER COMMUNICATION AND PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION

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Reported racial discrimination by patients and poor patient-provider communication have been recognized as obstacles to equitable health care and ultimately best outcomes. NSAIDs are commonly prescribed medications that can be potentially nephrotoxic and should be used with caution in those at risk for developing CKD.

We studied African-American patients (N=788) treated in an outpatient setting at an inner-city, safety-net hospital. Data were collected from computer assisted in-person survey and medical record review. Reported discrimination was measured using the CARDIA Discrimination Questionnaire. Patient-provider communication was assessed with the Participatory Decision Making Scale from the Medical Outcomes Study. Comorbidities and exposure to prescription NSAIDs were ascertained from medical record review.

Of the 788 patients, the mean age was 54 years and 71% were female. In addition, 43% were diagnosed with DM, 77% with uncontrolled hypertension, 5% with CHF and 19% with physician recognized CKD. Perceived discrimination was reported by 57%. Poor patient-provider communication was reported by 24%. NSAIDs were prescribed to 26% of study participants. When controlling for sex, comorbidities and socioeconomic status, patients who reported discrimination (OR=1.48, $p<0.041$) and poor patient-provider communication (OR=1.53, $p<0.042$) were more likely to be prescribed NSAIDs.

Poor patient-provider communication and perceived discrimination are associated with prescription NSAID use. Identifying those likely to be prescribed NSAIDs could aid in heightening physician awareness of prescribing practices and in recognizing comorbidities that place those at risk for the development and/or progression of CKD. Detecting and understanding flaws in patient-provider communication can potentially serve as an area of intervention to implement improved, effective communication, thus promoting safer prescribing practices.