

Influence of traditional Chinese beliefs on cancer screening behaviour among Chinese-Australian women

Author/s: Kwok, Cannas Sullivan, Gerard | **Year:** 2006 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** Physical Health

Reference:

Key Words:

cancers, Chinese, traditional beliefs, health literacy, women

Research aim:

This paper reports a study exploring how traditional Chinese life philosophy, including fatalism, influences understanding of the concepts of health and illness, and the impact of these concepts on cancer screening behaviour.

Results/Conclusion:

The findings revealed that when dealing with cancer prevention, Chinese-Australian women are heavily influenced by cultural traditions related to the lifecycle and disease prevention. Informants believed that contracting disease, including cancer, is inevitable and that there is no way to prevent it. Fatalism appears to be a significant barrier to their participation in cancer screening services.

Implications:

Our findings suggest that the effects of breast cancer screening and other health promotion programmes, which are general and do not take account of cultural variations may be compromised when it comes to cultural minorities. In the case of older Chinese-Australian women, breast cancer screening promotion programmes may overcome acceptance of fatalistic philosophy if they emphasize increased risk following immigration.

Cultural Group(s):

Chinese

Location of study:

New South Wales (Sydney)

Age group:

50+

Number included in study:

20

Type of participants:

Cantonese-speaking Chinese women

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Relates to study by same authors from 2005, 2012