



Presenter: Nyah Belle Martinez

Session & Time: Oral I

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Discipline: Nursing

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Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: Lung Cancer Screening in Asian American Women: Closing the Gap in Early Detection Through Culturally Tailored Nursing Interventions

Abstract:

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among Asian American women, yet up to 60% of those diagnosed are non-smokers—a rate far exceeding that of other racial and ethnic groups. Despite this alarming disparity, current U.S. screening guidelines, rooted primarily in smoking history, exclude the majority of Asian American women at elevated risk due to secondhand smoke exposure, indoor air pollution, radon, and genetic susceptibility. As a result, only 1 in 10 eligible Asian American women receive recommended lung cancer screening, contributing to late-stage diagnoses and significantly poor survival outcomes.

Current interventions, as identified in the literature, are ineffective in addressing the unique and complex barriers that this population faces. Existing nursing frameworks and clinical guidelines have been developed without adequate

representation of Asian American women, leaving critical gaps in culturally and linguistically appropriate patient care. Recent studies show that cultural stigma surrounding cancer diagnoses, language barriers, limited health literacy, and systemic distrust of healthcare institutions remain significant deterrents to screening uptake among this underserved group. This study will examine factors related to lung cancer screening uptake among Asian American women who fall outside traditional smoking-history criteria but present with significant alternative risk factors. Specifically, this study examines the lived experiences of Asian American women as they navigate screening decisions, centering on their cultural, linguistic, and systemic realities as primary drivers of health-seeking behavior. This study is important because it directly confronts the longstanding underrepresentation of Asian American women in lung cancer screening research and clinical practice. This study will help nurses and healthcare professionals understand the intersection of cultural identity, risk perception, and healthcare access—equipping clinicians with culturally competent tools to more effectively engage this population. Patients will be better informed in making decisions related to their health and well-being, ultimately improving early detection rates, quality of life, and survival outcomes.