

# Impact of Depression on the Intensity of Patient Navigation for Female with Cancer Screenings

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## **ABSTRACT (Word limit 600)**

Patient navigation is increasingly being used to support vulnerable patients to receive timely and quality medical care. We sought to understand whether patients with depression utilize additional patient navigation services after abnormal cancer screening. We compared depressed and non-depressed women using three different measures of intensity of patient navigation: number of patient-navigator encounters, encounter time, and number of unique barriers to care. The study population consisted of 1,455 women who received navigation after abnormal screening for breast or cervical cancer at one of six community health centers in Boston. Navigators spent a median of 60–75 minutes over one or two encounters per participant, with 49% of participants having one or more documented barrier to care. Depressed women did not differ in total numbers of encounters, encounter time, or unique barriers compared with non-depressed women. Our findings suggest that pre-existing depression does not predict which women will utilize additional navigation services.

## **BIOGRAPHY (Word limit 200)**

Karen B Chen is a senior oncology Therapist from Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina and a researcher who has developed a technique called Rebinding of the Body which helps people recover from trauma, learn self-help techniques and lead more productive lives. Her intersubjective ethnographic study has been

published in a text called, “Women, Trauma and Alcohol Dependency, Connection and disconnections in alcohol treatment for women”. She has published several articles in child and family psychiatry including an extensive literature review called “The Health Impact of Childhood Trauma”. Presently, she has a small private practice and she works as a consultant for Cogenz and Thought Leadership and Innovation Foundation. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario with Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing in 2009.

## **ABOUT RESEARCH TOPIC (Word limit 200)**

Patient navigation has been used to address delays in resolving abnormal cancer screenings in vulnerable populations defined by low income, inadequate insurance coverage, and minority race/ethnicity. Patient navigators are trained to provide social support and address financial and logistical barriers to accessing cancer care. Studies are beginning to demonstrate the efficacy of navigation in improving patient’s satisfaction and addressing barriers to care

## **ABOUT INSTITUTION (Word limit 200)**



The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) is a public medical school in Charleston, South Carolina.

It opened in 1824 as a small private college aimed at training physicians. It is one of the oldest continually operating schools of

medicine in the United States and the oldest in the Deep South. The school's main building was designed by Charleston architect Albert W. Todd. The school has expanded into a state university with a medical center and six colleges for the education of health professionals, biomedical scientists, and other health care personnel. It also operates as a center for research and has a public hospital.

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