LEVERAGING A COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP TO INCREASE LUPUS AWARENESS IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES


The Popular Opinion Leader (POL) model was developed by the Centers of Disease Control to train community members who can use this information to work towards reducing health disparities in lupus in communities with limited resources. With the knowledge that where a person lives directly influences his/her health, one of our goals was to understand the sociodemographic characteristics of the Chicago communities where the POLs disseminated lupus-related information.

Methods Ten POLs were identified and participated in four two-hour session educational training program. All POLs were female, the mean age was 59% and 100% were African American. Over the course of 6 months, the POLs tracked their encounters throughout their social networks by recording addresses of venues where educational information was disseminated and the number of individuals contacted. Data were entered into the Geographic Information System to evaluate the reach of their networks. We utilized the Healthy Chicago Database to describe the sociodemographic factors and some of the health resources of the Chicago neighborhoods identified by the POLs social networks.

Results The 10 POLs social networks were concentrated in four selected communities (Washington Heights, Morgan Park, Englewood and Roseland). These neighborhoods are located on the Southside of Chicago where health, educational, and financial resources are limited. All four communities were predominantly African-American, range 54.6%–96.1%. Individuals living in these neighborhoods with no health insurance ranged from 8.4%–17.2%, in Morgan Park and Englewood, respectively. Individual poverty was highest in Englewood (30.8%) and Roseland (27.2%) compared with approximately 18% in the other two neighborhoods. The percentage of individuals who did not complete high school was highest in Englewood (19.7%) and Englewood (13.5%) compared with approximately 10% in the other two areas.

Conclusions Engagement of local community members through POL conversations tapped into neighborhoods that demonstrated concerning sociodemographic features such as individual poverty, lack of health insurance, and lack of education through high school. Since the POLs had strong social networks prior to recruitment, they selected these communities to facilitate dissemination of lupus awareness education where resources may be limited. This illustrates the importance of POL engagement with community stakeholders who can use this information to work towards reducing health disparities in lupus in communities with limited resources.

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YOUNG SLE PATIENTS HAVE HIGHER CORONARY ARTERY CALCIUM SCORES COMPARED WITH POPULATION CONTROLS

Yevgeniya Garshtyn*, Genna Braverman, Sharan Mahtani, Laura Geraldino-Pardilla, Sabahat Bokhari, Anca D. Askanase.

Background Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a leading cause of death in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). The severe thrombocytopenia (<50 K/µl) was present in 28.7% of patients. Finally, 25.8% of patients presented with pancytopenia.

In 72.3% of patients, bone marrow interpretation, along with clinical and laboratory findings, lead to a conclusive diagnosis. The most common final diagnoses were disease activity (24.8%) and drug-associated toxicity (28.7%). The agreement between the initial diagnostic impression and the conclusion after BMA was performed was 45.5%.

We analyzed factors associated with the most common etiologies (table 1). Regarding BMA findings, when cytopenias were secondary to disease activity, it was more frequent for the bone marrow to be hypercellular (56 vs 23%, p=0.006) and to have increased megakaryocytes (40 vs 17.4%, p=0.048). Conversely, granulocytic dysplasia was less common in this group of patients (17.4% vs 54.3%, p=0.036).

After multivariate analysis, a neutrophil count <1000 cells/µl was a protective factor for disease activity (OR 0.021; 95% CI 0.001–0.428, p=0.012). On the other hand, a history of renal activity (OR 4.3; 95% CI 1.3–14.2, p=0.024) and neutrophils<1000 cells/µl (OR 4.05; 95% CI 1.15–14.19, p=0.029) were found to be independent risk factors for myelotoxicity.

Conclusions The most frequent diagnoses of SLE patients presenting with cytopenias were disease activity and drug-associated bone marrow toxicity. There are clinical characteristics and laboratory findings that may guide the diagnostic approach and thus, choose the most appropriate therapeutic intervention. BMA and biopsy play a key role in complementing the study of cytopenias in SLE patients, allowing for a complete evaluation of the particular context of each patient.

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