

[Get Access](#)[Share](#)[Export](#)

Journal of the National Medical Association

Volume 103, Issue 2, February 2011, Pages 150-157

Original Communication

Association of Black Race With Follow-up of an Abnormal Prostate-Specific Antigen Test

Barbara J. Turner MD, MSED¹ ... Mark G. Weiner MD¹

[Show more](#)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0027-9684\(15\)30264-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0027-9684(15)30264-9)

[Get rights and content](#)

Delayed evaluation after a clearly abnormal prostate-specific antigen (PSA) result may contribute to more advanced prostate cancer at diagnosis in black men. In 46 primary care practices over a period of 4.5 years, we studied men aged more than 50 years without known prostate cancer who had a PSA of at least 10.0 ng/mL for the first time. PSA follow-up included: a urology appointment, a new prostate diagnosis, or repeat PSA test. Cox proportional hazards models assessed time to follow-up, adjusting for demographic, clinical, and health care factors with censoring at a time that represents excessive delay (200 days). Among all 724 study men (27% black), delay until PSA follow-up averaged 115.2 days (\pm 79.7 d) and the unadjusted hazard ratio (HR) for follow-up was shorter for black men than nonblack men (HR, 1.23; 95% CI, 1.00-1.51). However, black men were more likely to have had prior urology care and had higher index PSA levels than other men; both factors were associated with shorter follow-up. After adjustment, delay did not differ for black vs nonblack race (HR, 1.05; 95% CI, 0.78-1.43) but men aged at least 75 years had a longer delay than men aged 74 years or less (HR, 0.72; 95% CI, 0.59-0.89). Despite black men having greater risk of advanced prostate disease at diagnosis and better linkage to urologic care, follow-up was delayed, on average, by more than 3 months and did not differ by race. These results reveal a potentially important, remediable factor to improve prostate cancer prevention and care for black men.

[Previous](#)[Next](#)

Keywords

prostate-specific antigen; African Americans; prostate cancer; physicians

[Recommended articles](#)

[Citing articles \(3\)](#)

