Breast Cancer Internet Information and Support (BCIIS): How Are Older Persons Different?

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Abstract

The Breast Cancer Internet Information and Support study (BCIIS) is an online needs assessment that asks persons with breast cancer what types of informational and support features they would most prefer in Internet-based programming related to breast cancer. Preliminary analyses indicate significant differences in characteristics of older respondents related to physical and mental health as well as online support needs.

Introduction

Breast cancer is a significant problem in our society. As informational and support options on the Internet proliferate, it becomes important to differentiate what types of programming are needed and desired by different subsets of persons who have breast cancer.

Older persons are increasingly using the Internet, and bring different sets of needs than their younger counterparts. The aim of this poster is to present differences in older persons with breast cancer related to a number of variables. The Breast Cancer Internet Information and Support (BCIIS) Survey began in 2004 and is ongoing. Preliminary analyses indicate that important differences exist between older and younger persons with breast cancer.

Results

Preliminary analyses of \( n = 417 \) respondents indicate that older persons take significantly more time to complete the survey. As expected, they tend to be retired or working part-time. They are primarily Caucasian and live in the United States. They have more energy difficulties in attending land-based groups, more physical difficulties, but feel mentally better than their younger counterparts.

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