LGBT Cancer Disparities

- LGBT people experience health disparities at each phase of the cancer continuum, despite there being no difference between LGBT bodies and those of their peers.
- Oncology nurses can make a difference but systemic and legal changes are also required to lessen the unfair burden of disease on this population.

Social Determinants of LGBT Health Disparities

- Lower rates of health insurance
- Lack of Provider knowledge about LGBT
- Discrimination and coping strategies
- Previous negative experiences with healthcare
- Multiple stigma: race, ability, citizenship

Discrimination Health

- LGBT report lower “well being” in many areas of their life.
- LGB people are 3x more likely to have a serious physical health problem following a hate crime.
- LGB people who live in high bias areas die 12 years earlier than their peers.
Increased LGBT Cancer Risks

- Stress and coping behaviors
  - e.g., tobacco and alcohol/drug use
- HIV, HPV
- Nulliparity
- High fat diet, high BMI
- Lower cancer screening rates

LGBT Cancer Experience

- Lesbian and bisexual women 2x more likely to report fair or poor health after a cancer diagnosis
- Gay, bisexual and transgender men have higher cancer rates and have more psychological distress after a cancer diagnosis.

(Boehmer, 2011)

Additional Challenges in LGBT Cancer Survivorship

- LGBT patients start out wary
- The local healthcare system determines experience
- Disclosure of SO/GI is related to safety
- LGBT patients have unique support systems
- LGBT patients lack culturally appropriate information and support

(Margolis & Scull, 2013)
Improving Oncology Nursing

- Learn enough to be an ally to LGBT patients and answer questions about sexuality, fertility, and LGBT relationships
- Broadcast your welcome to LGBT patients
- Include LGBT support systems in care
- Build welcome for gender conforming patients

Additional Quick References

- Websites:
- Journal Articles:
- Textbooks:
Bibliography


