Improving birth outcomes in abused pregnant women using patient navigation

HYPOTHESIS:

Specific Aims are to (1) Assess the effect of a Patient Navigation intervention on birth outcomes among abused pregnant women. We hypothesize that the proposed intervention will decrease prevalence of a) preterm delivery, b) neonatal intensive care, c) low birth weight and d) depressive symptoms; (2) Examine the effect of a Patient Navigation intervention on reducing IPV for abused pregnant women. We hypothesize that the proposed intervention will a) reduce IPV severity, b) increase safety behaviors, and c) promote resource use during pregnancy.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Include design, methodology, data collection, techniques, data analysis to be employed and evaluation and interpretation methodology)

Approximately 5.3 million intimate partner violence (IPV) victimizations occur annually, and costs for healthcare services are estimated at $4.1 billion. Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of IPV. Studies have reported significant differences in birth outcomes between abused and non-abused mothers. Yet, most patients are not screened and treated for IPV. An effective intervention is needed to alleviate the health risks and decrease the health care cost of IPV. Based on our previously developed “Patient Navigation” approach for cancer intervention, we will innovatively use this service delivery model to reduce IPV and improve birth outcomes in abused pregnant women. In cancer research, a patient navigator is a culturally similar or familiar care coordinator in the healthcare system, who helps patients overcome barriers to completing any step within the course of care. In the proposed study, patient navigators will assist abused women to receive interventions for IPV and its associated health problems by navigating through the community resources and specialty services.

We will recruit 80 new patients who screen positive on IPV in an urban prenatal clinic. Screening for IPV has been instituted as the standard of care for OB/GYN patients at the first prenatal visit. Abused pregnant women will receive usual care and additional services provided by the patient navigators at the first prenatal visit. The objectives in the patient navigation intervention protocol include patient evaluation and education, any necessary referral for specialty healthcare services, community resource referral, and documentation of outcomes. Patient satisfaction will be assessed after the intervention.

SPONSOR’S MOST RECENT PUBLICATIONS RELEVANT TO THIS RESEARCH:

Summer Student Research Program

Project Description


IS THIS PROJECT SUPPORTED BY EXTRAMURAL FUNDS?

Yes ☐ or No ☒

(IF YES, PLEASE SUPPLY THE GRANTING AGENCY’S NAME)

THIS PROJECT IS:

☒ Clinical ☐ Laboratory ☐ Behavioral ☐ Other

THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE USE OF ANIMALS ☐
PENDING ☒ APPROVED ☐ IACUC PROTOCOL #

THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS ☐
PENDING ☐ APPROVED ☒ IRB PROTOCOL # M

THIS PROJECT IS SUITABLE FOR:

☑ UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ☐ ENTERING FRESHMAN ☐
☐ SOPHOMORES ☐ ALL STUDENTS ☐

THIS PROJECT IS WORK-STUDY: Yes ☐ or No ☒

THIS PROJECT WILL BE POSTED DURING ACADEMIC YEAR FOR INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS?: Yes ☐ or No ☒

WHAT WILL THE STUDENT LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

The student will:

(1) learn about IPV and its impact on health through a selected review of the literature produced by the sponsors.
(2) become more familiar with medical practice in primary care settings.
(3) have an opportunity to participate in the development of future research projects.