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Identifying and Addressing Access Barriers to Screening Mammography in Asian American Populations

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Acknowledgement

Disclosures:

- I have no disclosures.

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Background

- Minoritized women in the US have historically suffered from disproportionate inequities in breast cancer diagnosis and mortality rate.
- Previous studies have shown that Asian American (AA) women currently have the lowest rates of screening mammogram among all racial and ethnic groups.

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Purpose

- Primary Objective: Identify current barriers contributing to lower screening mammography rates among Asian American women.
- Secondary Objective: Explore strategies to increase mammography access and utilization (such as patient-centered education presentations, community outreach events, local health fairs, screening days, etc.)

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Methods

- A series of patient education presentations on breast cancer and screening mammography utilization were conducted.
- A mixed methods study using anonymous surveys was then administered at various community health centers to identify prior experiences with and current barriers to screening mammography.
- Qualitative results identified patient demographics, prior experience with breast cancer screening, and current barriers preventing access to mammogram services.

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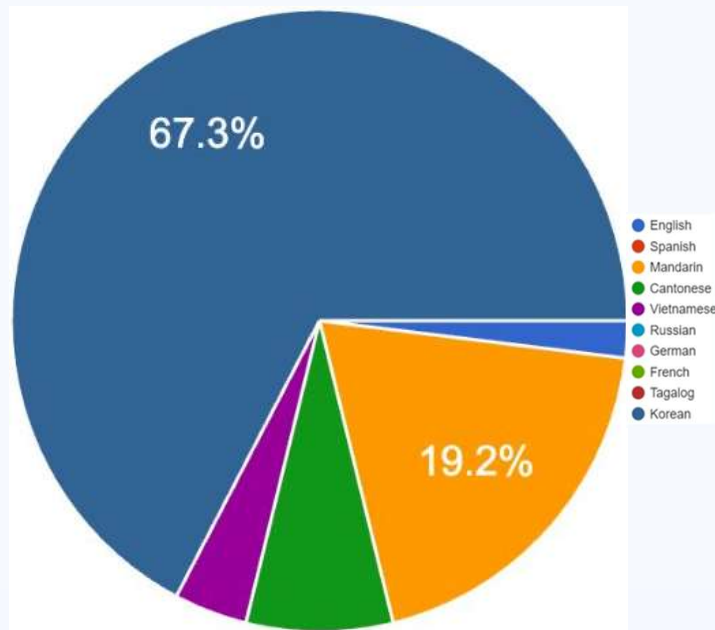
Results

- 73.1% (38 patients) had a previous experience with screening mammography, and 45.2% (19 patients) have encountered barriers when trying to access mammogram services in the past.
- The top 3 barriers faced by AA patients when accessing screening mammograms were: language (65%, 13 patients), cost or financial concerns (50%, 10 patients), difficulty scheduling appointments (40%, 8 patients).
- For patients who have never received a screening mammogram, the top reasons identified were: felt the exam was unnecessary as they were asymptomatic (60%, 14 patients), costs, tied with difficulty scheduling appointments and language barriers (21.7%, 5 patients), lack of insurance coverage, lack of awareness about where to receive mammogram services (tied at 13%, 3 patients).

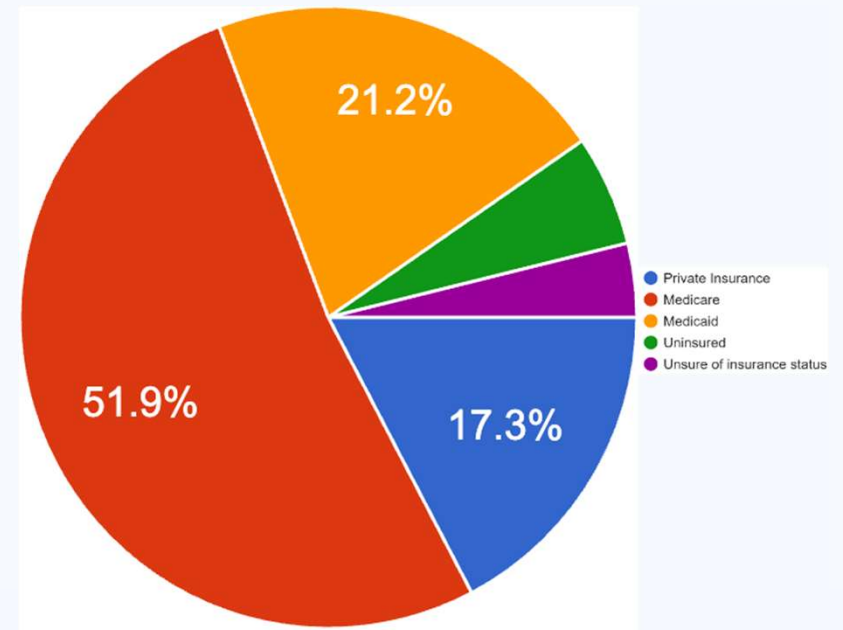
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Results: 52 patients aged 38-89 participated

Demographics Overview: Language & Insurance Status of Participants



Language

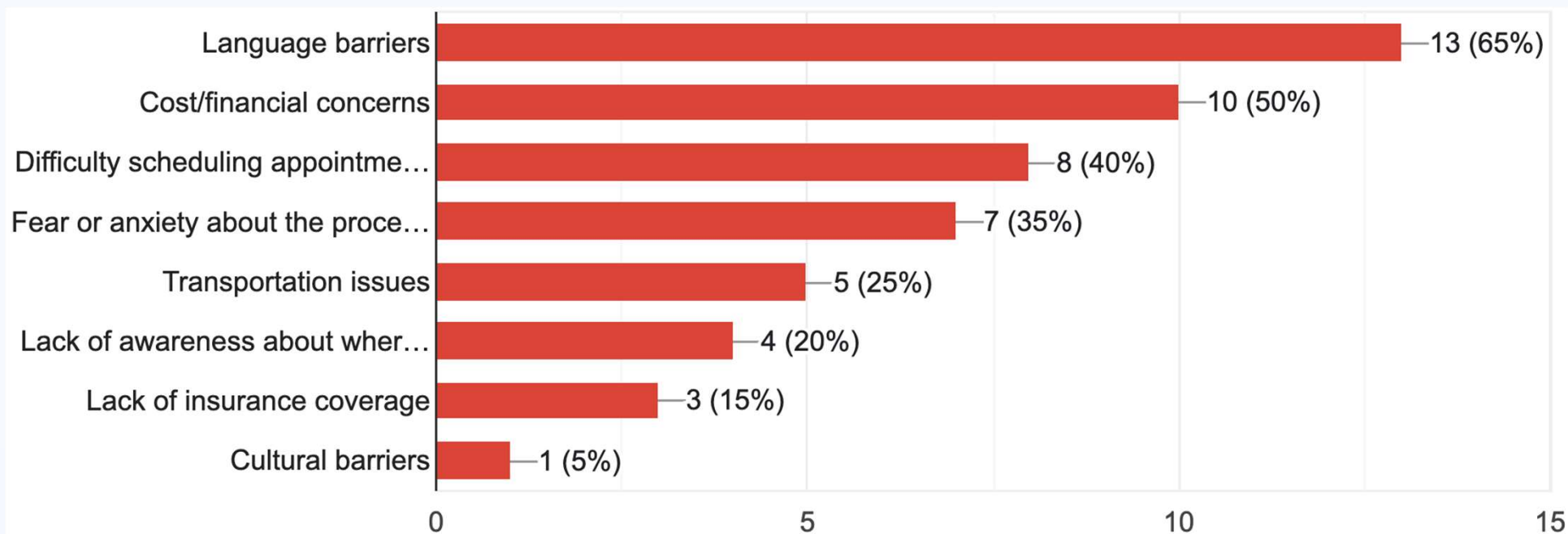


Insurance Status

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Results: 45.2% reported barriers when accessing mammography services

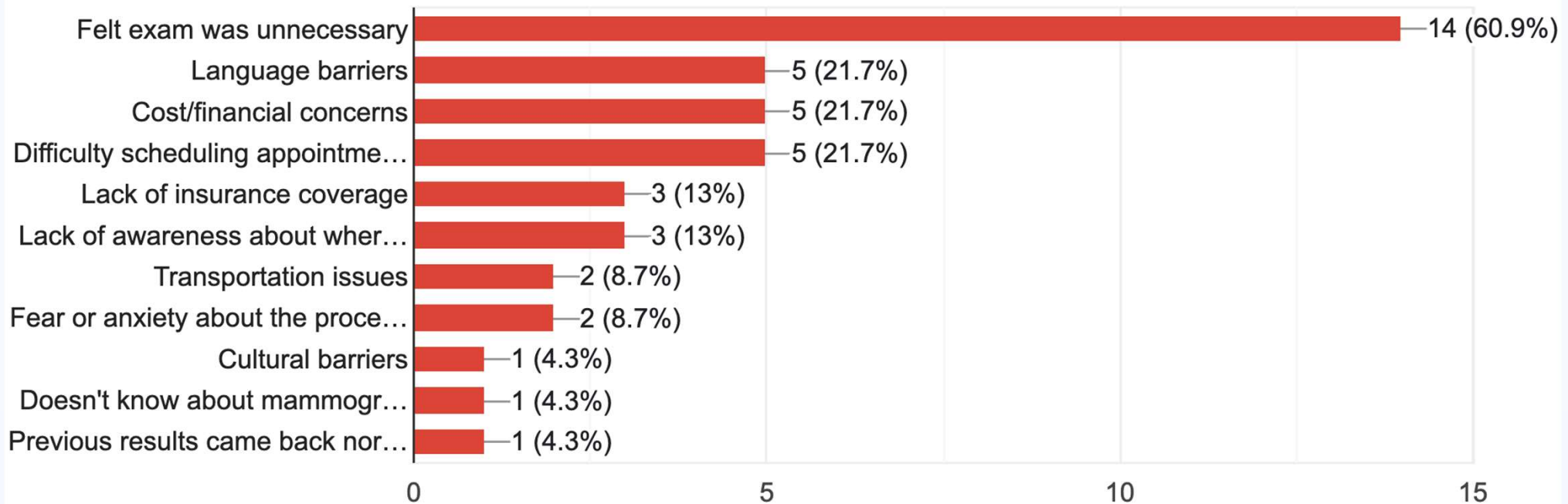
Barriers Encountered when Accessing Mammography



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Results: "Felt exam was unnecessary" was the top reason for patients who chose to not get a mammogram

Reasons for Not Getting a Mammogram



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Conclusion

- The results from this study highlights how **our healthcare systems are not sufficiently addressing a prevalent belief among AA women:** mammography is unnecessary for asymptomatic individuals.
- **Unique factors**, 1) language barriers, 2) difficulty scheduling appointments, and 3) financial concerns, are **among the barriers that limit AA women** from accessing and utilizing mammogram services.

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Recommendations

Addressing these highlighted barriers may help reduce disparities in breast cancer screening and mortality among AA populations.

Strategies include:

- **Patient education**
- **Community outreach**
- **Free/low-cost screening days with covered imaging services**

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At OHSU...

- Community Organizations we reached out to:
 - Susan Komen
 - OHSU Health Care Equity Fair
 - Asian Health & Service Center
 - OHSU Hillsboro Health
 - Reclaiming Black Joy
 - Binational Health Fair
 - Soul 2 Soul

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Susan Komen Walk for Breast Cancer,
Portland OR, 2024

OHSU Pink & Pearl Campaign

- Raising awareness and support for both breast and lung cancer.
- Pilot event in March 2024, offering FREE screening mammograms to all patients regardless of insurance status.
- First "Pink & Pearl Campaign" event in October 2024, offering both screening mammograms and LDCT at no cost to all patients.

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Pink and Pearl Campaign

The Pink and Pearl Campaign is a unique initiative aimed at raising awareness and support for both breast and lung cancer. By blending community events, educational programs, and fundraising efforts, we strive to make a meaningful impact in the fight against these diseases.

We are excited to announce that OHSU will be offering breast and lung cancer screenings as part of the Pink and Pearl Campaign. This initiative aims to increase awareness and encourage early detection through accessible healthcare services.

Why get Screened?

Early detection is crucial in the fight against cancer. Regular screenings can catch cancer at an early stage when it is most treatable. By participating in these screenings, you are taking a proactive step towards your health and well-being.

Breast Cancer Screenings | Mammograms

Available to all women within the [recommended age range](#) for breast cancer screening.

Lung Cancer Screenings | Low-dose CT scans

For individuals who [meet the criteria for lung cancer screening](#), including high-risk groups such as cigarette smokers and those with a family history of lung cancer.

Our Effort Continues...

- March 15, 2025: first screening mammogram event for transgender patients in collaboration with the OHSU Transgender Health Program.
- The second "Pink & Pearl" screening event hopefully returns October 2025, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) and Lung Cancer Awareness Month (November).
- Working on expanding services offered to include colorectal cancer screenings.

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