

Article on Life Sciences

Research on life sciences published by scientists at San Diego State University

2009 OCT 20 -- Data detailed in 'End-of-life communication: ethnic differences between Korean American and non-Hispanic White older adults' have been presented. According to a study from the United States, "This study examined ethnic differences in end-of-life communication between Korean American and non-Hispanic White older adults using the Health Belief Model as a conceptual framework. A cross-sectional design was employed to survey 217 community-dwelling older adults (112 Korean Americans and 105 Non-Hispanic Whites)."

"Half of the participants had never held end-of-life discussions with significant others. Non-Hispanic Whites were more likely to engage in end-of-life communication than Korean Americans, but the ethnicity effect was not evident in a multivariate analysis. Only participants' knowledge, perceived barriers, perceived severity, and experience of illness significantly predicted the likelihood of the end-of-life communication. Higher knowledge, stronger beliefs about the perceived severity and barriers, and greater experience of illness were related to having end-of-life communication. Knowledge and health beliefs play an important role in end-of-life communication which differs by ethnicity," wrote E. Ko and colleagues, San Diego State University.

The researchers concluded: "Culturally competent health care practitioners need to consider ethnic variation in advance care planning."

Ko and colleagues published the results of their research in the *Journal of Aging and Health* (End-of-life communication: ethnic differences between Korean American and non-Hispanic White older adults. *Journal of Aging and Health*, 2009;21(7):967-84).

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The publisher of the *Journal of Aging and Health* can be contacted at: SAGE Publications, USA , 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320, USA.

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