UNDERSTANDING THE HISPANIC HEALTH PARADOX IN THE CONTEXT OF LUNG CANCER

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What is the Hispanic/Latinx Health Paradox?

The epidemiological phenomenon in which Hispanics/Latinos experience lower mortality relative to Non-Hispanic Whites despite disproportionately greater socioeconomic health risks (e.g., insurance status, education, income, racism).

- Advantages in many aspects of disease incidence and morbidity
  - Meta-analysis of 58 studies: 17.5% lower risk of mortality among Hispanics (Ruiz et al. 2013; AJPH)

- Moderated by age, ethnic background, nativity, neighborhood, acculturation

Does the Hispanic paradox occur in the context of lung cancer?

Yes. 93-95% of included studies showed either an Hispanic mortality advantage or no difference (OS and CSS; compared to NHW) among individuals diagnosed with lung cancer.
What are the potential mechanisms?

• Health behaviors?
  • Tobacco use lower among Hispanics

• Differences in histology and/or oncogenic drivers?

• Differences in cellular aging?
Basic hypothesis:

- Cultural values promote and maintain strong social bonds (network size/integration, cohesion) leading to health advantages.
Ethnicity and Lung Cancer: A test of the Hispanic sociocultural hypothesis (R01CA262719; MPI: Ruiz & Hamann)

Multisite study of 672 individuals with later-stage lung cancer

Study Aims

• Evaluate the degree to which social integration mediates ethnic differences in survival outcomes for lung cancer patients in a multisite, longitudinal sample.

• Examine whether acculturation moderates survival through its effects on social integration among Hispanic lung cancer patients.

• Examine if daily experiences (derived from EAR and EMA) statistically mediate the effects of social integration on survival outcomes.
Thank you and acknowledgements

Questions?