

FACTORS AFFECTING CANCER SCREENING PARTICIPATION

Abstract

Background: Cancer screening (CS) is a potential method that may reduce cancer mortality by early detection and treatment. In Japan, CS is organized to promote five types of CS (i.e., gastric, lung, colorectal, cervical and breast). However, overall CS participation rates are still low. In contrast, the number of workplace CS is on the rise. Few studies have distinguished organized CS and workplace CS, thus this study aimed to investigate the factors affecting CS participation classified by working status.

Method: Multivariable logistic regression analyses were conducted separately by five specific CS types and working status. A nationally representative cross-sectional data survey from 2013 was used. A total of 1,711 participants included females aged 20-74 years and males aged 40-74 years were enrolled in the study. **Findings:** Overall CS participation rates were 45-64% in workers and 37-50% in non-workers. Our study suggested that there are socioeconomic inequalities in CS participation both in workers and non-workers. Several modifiable factors that may improve CS participation included having a family doctor, communicative and critical health literacy and working hours for workers and smoking for non-workers. Different approaches may be needed between organized CS and workplace CS to improve overall CS participation in Japan.

Keywords: Cancer Screening, Employment, Health Literacy