

Abstract Form

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Title of abstract: The impact of cultural beliefs on Korean-Australian women's breast cancer screening behaviours

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Background: Breast cancer screening practices have been highly promoted in Australia. A significant improvements in breast cancer survival rates over the last 20 years have been largely due to the practice of early detection measures. However, women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background, particularly Asian women, have been consistently reported having low participation rates in breast cancer screening.

Aims: This paper aims to 1) report the current breast cancer screening practices (breast awareness, mammogram) among Korean women in Australia; 2) examine demographic and cultural factors that affect their screening behaviors.

Method: A convenience sample of 258 Korean-Australian women completed the Korean version of the Breast Cancer Screening Beliefs Questionnaire

Results: Only 16.9% paid special attention to their breasts monthly whereas 54.5% attended biannual mammograms. Employment status and the length of stay in Australia are significant factors that affect women's breast cancer screening behaviour. Women who engaged in regular breast awareness had significantly higher scores on Knowledge of breast cancer subscale, whereas, those who attended mammography has significantly higher scores on Attitudes toward health check-ups.

Implications that impact on your project: Consistent with literature among women from other cultural groups, the research highlights that certain cultural and attitudinal issues are detrimental factors for breast cancer screening behaviour among Korean-Australian women. For effective breast cancer screening promotion, taking women's cultural beliefs into account is essential.