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Primary care cancer control interventions including Latinos: a review.

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BACKGROUND: Even though 86% of adult Latinos have a usual source of care, there is a paucity of literature on primary care-based interventions to promote cancer prevention and control in this population. This systematic review examines published primary care-based cancer control interventions that included Latinos. **METHODS:** MEDLINE, the Cochrane Registry, and EMBASE were searched from January 1985 to January 2003. Any primary care-based intervention using a controlled trial, quasi-experimental, or pre-post design that targeted breast, cervical, or colorectal cancer was included if at least 5% of the sample was Latino. **RESULTS:** A total of 14 intervention studies met inclusion criteria. Seven of the 14 studies described patient or provider reminder interventions. Other interventions incorporated into the primary care setting one of the following: community health educators, culturally sensitive videos, audit with feedback, materials from the "Put Prevention Into Practice" campaign, and vouchers for free screenings. The heterogeneity of designs and outcome variables and the low number of Latinos presented obstacles to combining data to estimate the overall effectiveness of primary care interventions for this population. Qualitatively, patient and physician reminders and management systems strategies including audit with feedback for providers appear to result in improved screening utilization. **CONCLUSIONS:** There is a paucity of data on the effectiveness of primary care cancer control interventions directed at Latinos. Primary care-based interventions that have been effective in non-Latinos could incorporate culturally appropriate elements and lessons from community-based research and could be applied to Latinos so that their effectiveness can be assessed in this group.

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