

- **Are you a patient?** Visit [VanderbiltHealth.com \(http://www.vanderbilthealth.com\)](http://www.vanderbilthealth.com)

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER ▾

[Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt \(http://www.childrenshospital.vanderbilt.org/\)](http://www.childrenshospital.vanderbilt.org/)

[Vanderbilt University School of Medicine \(http://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/\)](http://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/)

[Vanderbilt University School of Nursing \(http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/\)](http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/)

[Vanderbilt University \(http://www.vanderbilt.edu/\)](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/)

[Research at Vanderbilt \(http://research.vanderbilt.edu/\)](http://research.vanderbilt.edu/)

[For Patients and Visitors \(http://www.vanderbilthealth.com\)](http://www.vanderbilthealth.com)

[Resources for Researchers, Employees and Students \(http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu\)](http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu)

Vanderbilt-led study reveals racial disparities in prostate cancer care

by [Dagny Stuart \(http://news.vanderbilt.edu/author/stuart-dagny/\)](http://news.vanderbilt.edu/author/stuart-dagny/) | Posted on Thursday, Aug. 30, 2012 — 8:35 AM



[\(http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2012/08/vanderbilt-led-study-reveals-racial-disparities-in-prostate-cancer-care/d-5/\)](http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2012/08/vanderbilt-led-study-reveals-racial-disparities-in-prostate-cancer-care/d-5/)

Daniel Barocas, M.D. Photo by Susan Urmy/Vanderbilt.

A study led by investigators from [Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center \(http://www.vicc.org/\)](http://www.vicc.org/) (VICC) finds that black men with prostate cancer receive lower quality surgical care than white men. The racial differences

persist even when controlling for factors such as the year of surgery, age, comorbidities and insurance status.

Daniel Barocas, M.D., MPH, assistant professor of Urologic Surgery, is first author of the study published in the Aug. 17 issue of the *Journal of Urology* (<http://www.jurology.com/>).

Investigators from VICC, the Tennessee Valley Veterans Administration Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center, Nashville, and the Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, Md., were involved in the study of racial disparities.

The researchers analyzed records of 105,972 prostate cancer patients who received radical prostatectomies in all nonfederal hospitals in Florida, Maryland and New York state from 1996 to 2007. Of the patients, 81,112 (76.5 percent) were white, 14,006 (13.2 percent) were black, 6,999 (6.6 percent) were Hispanic and 3,855 (3.6 percent) represented all other races.

Previous studies have found that men who are treated at high volume hospitals (HVH) by surgeons who do a high volume of prostatectomies (HVS) have better outcomes and lower mortality.

In this study, black men had 33 percent lower odds of using a high volume surgeon and 27 percent lower odds of visiting a high volume hospital than white men. Furthermore, black men had a higher rate of blood transfusion and longer length of stay in the hospital. They also were more likely to die in the hospital.

Black men who used HVH and HVS were at substantially decreased risk for adverse outcomes, including death, than those using lower volume health care providers, but still had worse outcomes than their white counterparts.

“Our findings of racial variation in the quality of surgical care for prostate cancer adds to previous studies that have shown racial differences in screening behavior, stage at presentation and use of aggressive treatment, and may contribute to our understanding of why black men have much higher prostate cancer mortality than white men,” said Barocas.

The results suggest that black men may have more difficulty gaining access to high quality care.

Racial disparities in prostate cancer outcomes may be partially explained by differences in access to high quality care, which in turn may reflect differences in patient resources. “Racial disparities in prostate cancer outcomes may be partially explained by differences in access to high quality care, which in turn may reflect differences in patient resources,” explained Barocas. “To close this gap, we may need interventions aimed at improving access to high quality care for all men, including access to high volume health care providers.”

Investigators involved in the study include Sam Chang, M.D., Michael Cookson, M.D., Joseph Smith Jr., M.D., David Penson, M.D., MPH, Jay Fowke, Ph.D., MPH, Nathaniel Mercaldo, M.S., Jeffrey Blume, Ph.D., all of Vanderbilt, and Darryl Gray, M.D., ScD., with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Funding for the research was provided by the [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/) (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/>) (K12 ES15855), and the [National Center for Research Resources](http://www.nih.gov/about/almanac/organization/NCRHR.htm) (<http://www.nih.gov/about/almanac/organization/NCRHR.htm>) at the National Institutes of Health through the Vanderbilt CTSA Grant (UL1 RR024975).

Contact:

Dagny Stuart, (615) 936-7245

Dagny.stuart@vanderbilt.edu (<mailto:Dagny.stuart@vanderbilt.edu>)

Recent Stories from VUMC News and Communications Publications



- **Vanderbilt Medicine**
Getting Personal (<http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltmedicine/index.html?article=13095>)



- **Nurse**
The Art of Aging (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltnurse/2012/04/the-art-of-aging/>)



- **Momentum**
Forecast Positive (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/magazines/momentum/2012/06/forecast-positive/>)



- **Hope**
A Home Run (<http://www.childrenshospital.vanderbilt.org/hope/?p=932>)



- **Vanderbilt Medicine**
Bouncing Back (<http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltmedicine/index.html?article=13105>)

more (<http://news.vanderbilt.edu/section/vumc-publications/>)

Find Us On:



(<http://www.youtube.com/user/vanderbilthealth>)



(<http://twitter.com/vumchealth>)



(<http://www.facebook.com/VanderbiltHealth>)

Like

85,118 people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Health Topics (<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/healthtopics>) Doctors

(<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/findadoc>) Locations (<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/maps>) Guide

to VUMC (<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/newsite/information.php>) My Health at Vanderbilt

<https://www.myhealthatvanderbilt.com/myhealth-portal/app>)

For Referring Physicians (<http://staging.vanderbilthealth.com/main/24065>) Giving

(<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/27710>) Volunteer

(<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/volunteeratvanderbilt/>) Media (<http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/root/vumc.php?site=npa&doc=207>)

Quality Answers (<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/11159>)

Careers (<http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/careers/>) Pay Your Bill

(<https://vanderbilt.patientcompass.com/hc/sp/vanderbilt/blindPayment>) About VUMC

(<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/guide>) Feedback (http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/feedback.html?site=main&doc=11160&TB_iframe=true&height=460&width=400)

Privacy Policy

(<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/23526>)

Popular Links A-Z Directory (<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/AtoZDirectory>) Medical Record

Information (<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/guide>) Key Telephone Numbers

(<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/guide>) Make an Appointment

(<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/guide>)

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

1211 Medical Center Drive

Nashville, TN 37232

(<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/main/maps>)

(615) 322-5000



(<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com>)

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action. ©

(<http://news.vanderbilt.edu/manage/wp-admin/>) 2012 Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Site Development: University Web Communications (<http://web.vanderbilt.edu/>)