

5th International Conference on

PHYSIOTHERAPY

November 27-29, 2017 Dubai, UAE



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Disparity in utilization of healthcare services among African Americans and Caucasians with diabetes in the United States

The purpose of this study was to identify disparity of utilization of healthcare services among African, Americans and Caucasians in the United States from 2006-2008 and 2009 and 2011. A random sample of patients with type-II Diabetes Mellitus was collected from 2006- 2011 using files derived from inpatient charts and insurance carrier data was analyzed by an independent t-test. The outcome variables are number of hospital stays, length of hospital stay, number of physician office visits, number of physical therapy visits and incidence of lower limb amputations. Health care disparities in the utilization of health care for DMII exist between African Americans and Caucasians. Caucasians are more likely to visit physicians and physical therapists while African-Americans are more likely to go to hospitals, stay longer in hospitals, and have lower limb amputations. The causes of these disparities between African Americans and Caucasians require further investigation for complete understanding.

Biography

Anand Shetty is a Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of St. Mary. He is also the Co-Director of Research in the department. Currently he teaches anatomy, exercise physiology, and a series of research courses. He received his Doctoral degree in Physical Education from the University of Northern Colorado. He has published and presented numerous articles on obesity and a frequent invited speaker on obesity and nutrition. He has more than 25 years of teaching and research experience.

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