

Psychosocial Processes in Symptom Appraisal and Help-seeking Behaviour of Black African women Across their Cervical Cancer Pathways to Treatment in Resource-Constrained Settings: A narrative review.

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Cervical cancer remains a leading cause of cancer-related morbidity and mortality among women in Sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa, with Black African women disproportionately affected. Despite advancements in screening, persistent delays in symptom appraisal and help-seeking behavior present as barriers to timely diagnosis in most resource-constrained settings. This narrative review synthesizes existing literature on psychosocial processes in symptom appraisal and help-seeking behavior of Black African women across their cervical cancer diagnostic pathway. This review examines the dynamic interaction between intrapsychic processes and social processes. It revealed that delays are understood to be the outcome of a complex interplay of psychosocial processes across individual, sociocultural and structural contexts. The gap noted in this review is that limited local research focuses on African women's process from appraising to seeking help for cervical cancer. The review also highlighted the gap in community-based health promotion interventions. It proposes integrating psychological process and structural barrier into interventions, which has the potential to improve self-appraisal of symptoms and reduce the route to help-seeking, thereby shortening the time to cervical cancer diagnosis.