1. **Prostate cancer screening perception, beliefs, and practices among men in Bamenda, Cameroon**

**Global Integrative Oncology: Use in Cancer Prevention**

**Background**: Few studies have explored the perceptions, beliefs, and practices of men in Cameroon regarding prostate cancer (CaP). Existing literature indicate that local beliefs and cultural practices contribute to late stage diagnosis of cancer and other chronic diseases in Cameroon.

**Aim**: This qualitative study aimed to explore cultural norms and beliefs that contribute to late stage diagnosis of CaP among men in Bamenda; identify factors that influence decision to abstain or screen for CaP among study participants; and ascertain how men decide between traditional **healers and biomedicine for treatment or diagnosis of CaP.**

**Method**: Three focus group sessions were held with men 40 years and older in Bamenda.

**Results**: Thirteen themes emerged from this study and indicate a strong reliance on traditional healers among study participants for health care, a tendency among men to self-diagnose when initial symptoms of illness manifest and reluctance to discuss the subject of CaP publicly.

**Analysis**: To effectively address these contributing factors to late stage CaP diagnosis, a contextually based health education program is required and should be tailored to fill knowledge gaps about the disease, dispel misconceptions, and focus on reducing barriers to utilization of health services.

**Conclusion**: One focus group participant summarized the need for population-based health education in Bamenda: “*I think the first thing is education, to get the people to become aware of the existence of prostate cancer, especially the men like we are here today.”*

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