

Supplementary Material

Public Health Genomics

Genetic Testing Awareness and Attitudes among Latinos: Exploring Shared Perceptions and
Gender-Based Differences

Jada G. Hamilton, Elyse Shuk, Guedy Arniella, C. Javier González, Geoffrey S. Gold,
Francesca Gany, Mark E. Robson, Jennifer L. Hay

Address correspondence to: Jada G. Hamilton, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, 641
Lexington Avenue, 7th floor, New York, NY 10022. Phone: 646-888-0049, Fax: 212-888-2584,
Email: hamiltoj@mskcc.org.

Focus Group Guide Content to Assess Latinos' Awareness and Attitudes about Genetic Testing

Views about Genetic Testing

First, I would like to talk a little bit about genetic testing.

- What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase genetic testing?
 - (probes if no response: medical tests, paternity, country of origin)
- What have you heard about it?
 - (probes: anything related to health, family ancestry, paternity)
- Where did you hear about it?
 - (probes: the media, television programs, commercials, the internet, physician)
- Where would you go for information on genetic testing, if you wanted to get information?
 - (probes: internet, physician, media, family members who have a medical background)
- Have you ever talked with anyone about genetic testing?
 - (probes: family members, physician, friends)
- If you were considering genetic testing, who would you talk to for advice for getting it?
 - (probes: family members, physician, friends)
- Have you ever considered getting genetic testing?
- What are some good reasons to get genetic testing?
 - (probes: reasons related to health, family, or for general knowledge)
- What are some drawbacks of getting genetic testing?
 - (probes: emotional responses, financial concerns, family concerns)

Response to the vignette

Now, I am going to read you a short vignette. Please vividly imagine that you find yourself in the situation below. Think hard about how you would feel and what you would think in this situation.

Imagine that you learn from your doctor that there is a new test that will provide information about a person's risk of developing skin cancer. This genetic test involves giving a blood sample that is tested for a gene variation that places a person at increased risk for developing skin cancer. A nurse takes a sample of blood from you for this purpose. Three days later you receive the test results. [Explanations: a gene is a unit in the body that transmits hereditary information, for example, brown eyes. Genetic

risk means that you are at an increased risk for developing a disease if you have a particular gene.]

- Would you want to take a test like this? Why or why not?
 - (probes: what would encourage/discourage you to take the test?)
- What would be some reasons to do it?
 - (probes: anything related to gaining general knowledge, health, family)
- What would be some reasons not to?
 - (probes: issues related to seeing physicians, medical procedures, emotions)
- Think about the typical Latino in New York City – what barriers might she or he encounter in getting a test like this?
 - (probes: issues related to physicians, finances, language)
- If you did take the test and found out you were at higher risk for skin cancer, how would it affect you?
 - (probes: issues related to emotions, behaviors, family)
- How about if your results showed you were not at higher risk for skin cancer?
 - (probes: issues related to behaviors, attitudes, family, emotions)