

Sociopsychological Tailoring to Address Colorectal Cancer Screening Disparities: A Randomized Controlled Trial

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ABSTRACT

PURPOSE Interventions tailored to sociopsychological factors associated with health behaviors have promise for reducing colorectal cancer screening disparities, but limited research has assessed their impact in multiethnic populations. We examined whether an interactive multimedia computer program (IMCP) tailored to expanded health belief model sociopsychological factors could promote colorectal cancer screening in a multiethnic sample.

METHODS We undertook a randomized controlled trial, comparing an IMCP tailored to colorectal cancer screening self-efficacy, knowledge, barriers, readiness, test preference, and experiences with a nontailored informational program, both delivered before office visits. The primary outcome was record-documented colorectal cancer screening during a 12-month follow-up period. Secondary outcomes included postvisit sociopsychological factor status and discussion, as well as clinician recommendation of screening during office visits. We enrolled 1,164 patients stratified by ethnicity and language (49.3% non-Hispanic, 27.2% Hispanic/English, 23.4% Hispanic/Spanish) from 26 offices around 5 centers (Sacramento, California; Rochester and the Bronx, New York; Denver, Colorado; and San Antonio, Texas).

RESULTS Adjusting for ethnicity/language, study center, and the previsit value of the dependent variable, compared with control patients, the IMCP led to significantly greater colorectal cancer screening knowledge, self-efficacy, readiness, test preference specificity, discussion, and recommendation. During the follow-up period, 132 (23%) IMCP and 123 (22%) control patients received screening (adjusted difference = 0.5 percentage points, 95% CI -4.3 to 5.3). IMCP effects did not differ significantly by ethnicity/language.

CONCLUSIONS Sociopsychological factor tailoring was no more effective than nontailored information in encouraging colorectal cancer screening in a multiethnic sample, despite enhancing sociopsychological factors and visit behaviors associated with screening. The utility of sociopsychological tailoring in addressing screening disparities remains uncertain.

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INTRODUCTION

Colorectal cancer screening is underutilized.^{1,2} Screening rates are particularly low among Hispanic persons, reflecting language and socioeconomic barriers.^{1,3} Approaches to motivate more individuals to undergo colorectal cancer screening and lessen ethnic screening disparities are needed.

Interventions tailored to sociopsychological factors that may influence behavior, such as self-efficacy, stage of readiness, barriers, and others,⁴ show promise.⁵ Such interventions use responses elicited from individuals to match the content and amount of information to individual needs and sociopsychological factors, with the proximate goal of enhancing the factors.⁶⁻⁸ Tailoring of information increases its perceived relevance, promotes deeper cognitive processing, and improves recall.⁹ Further, in randomized controlled trials tailored interventions are more effective than nontailored

Conflicts of interest: authors report none.

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interventions in enhancing sociopsychological factors across sociodemographic groups.¹⁰⁻²²

Whether enhancement of sociopsychological factors influences health behaviors is uncertain.^{12,13,19,22-32} Among trials comparing patients receiving sociopsychologically tailored colorectal cancer screening interventions with active control,^{15,19,20,22,25-30,33} only some found superior effects of tailoring^{19,25,28,29,34}; in all but 1 trial³⁴ screening was self-reported,^{19,25,28,29} suggesting possible response bias. There is a need to examine further whether objectively measured colorectal cancer screening improves in response to sociopsychological tailoring.

Such interventions could also reduce ethnic disparities in health behaviors.⁸ One randomized controlled trial included sociopsychological tailoring in a multifaceted study of colorectal cancer screening in Hispanic and Asian-American racial/ethnic groups.²⁵ That study found increased screening in both racial/ethnic groups, but it did not compare effects between these groups, and screening was self-reported. The multifaceted nature of the study precluded determination of tailoring effects specifically.

In a multicenter randomized controlled trial, we compared the effects of 2 patient-focused colorectal cancer screening interventions delivered before office visits. The first was an interactive multimedia computer program (IMCP), tailored to expanded health belief model (EHBM) factors associated with screening: knowledge, self-efficacy, barriers, readiness, test preference, and prior screening.⁴ Proximate aims were to enhance sociopsychological factors, motivating patients for screening and to encourage discussion of screening, and prompting clinicians to recommend screening.³⁵ The second intervention was a nontailored program providing basic screening information. The primary outcome was colorectal cancer screening during a 12-month follow-up period, ascertained by record review. Randomization was stratified by ethnicity and language (non-Hispanic, Hispanic/English, or Hispanic/Spanish). We hypothesized that the tailored IMCP would be more effective than control in (1) favorably influencing the sociopsychological factors, (2) prompting discussion and clinician recommendation of screening, and (3) promoting screening. Further, given the relevance of EHBM factors across sociodemographic groups,^{25,36} we hypothesized IMCP effects would not differ by ethnicity or language.

METHODS

Study activities were conducted from February 1, 2010, to November 30, 2012. Institutional review board approval was obtained at all performance sites.

Study Setting, Recruitment, and Randomization

Patients aged 50 to 75 years and not up-to-date for colorectal cancer screening were recruited from primary care offices in Sacramento, California (10 offices, 9 in a university-affiliated network); the Bronx (1 federally qualified health center [FQHC]) and Rochester (2 FQHCs, 1 hospital-based practice), New York; San Antonio, Texas (2 FQHCs, 2 private practices); and Colorado (1 FQHC near Denver, 7 in a FQHC system 200 miles southwest of Denver). A sample size of 1,344 patients was targeted, approximately equally divided among 4 ethnicity/intervention subgroups (Hispanic/experimental, Hispanic/control, non-Hispanic/experimental, non-Hispanic/control). Anticipating 10% attrition, this sample size was estimated to yield 80% power to detect 10 percentage point differences in screening on pairwise between-subgroup comparisons.

At all but 1 site initial study eligibility was determined by medical record review. Patients were considered up-to-date for screening (and therefore ineligible) if 1 or more of the following was documented: fecal occult blood test (FOBT) within 1 year, flexible sigmoidoscopy within 5 years, or colonoscopy within 10 years.^{2,37} Persons meeting initial eligibility criteria were solicited for participation, primarily by telephone and secondarily by letters inviting a call to the recruitment line.

Additional eligibility required the ability to speak and read English or Spanish and adequate eyesight, hearing, and hand function to use a touchscreen computer. Eligible patients agreeing to participate were asked to arrive 1 hour before an appointment they had previously scheduled with their clinician so they could complete informed consent and the intervention. At the Bronx site, for feasibility reasons, recruitment personnel instead approached patients in the waiting area before their appointments, with study eligibility based on self-report.

Patients were given touchscreen notebook computers to use before and after their visit. Research assistants logged the patients into the study software and showed them how to navigate the program. After answering ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic) and preferred software language (English or Spanish) questions, patients were randomly assigned by the software to receive either the tailored IMCP or control program in their preferred language. Randomization was stratified by ethnicity and language and implemented in blocks of 10 within each stratum, using a random number generation program.³⁸ Patients received a \$20 gift card or cash after completing a postvisit questionnaire.

Study Interventions

We designed the study computer programs using standard software engineering principles.³⁹ The design

elements (eg, architecture, operating systems, usability features) have been described elsewhere.⁴⁰

For patients receiving the experimental tailored IMCP, the computer algorithm for presenting tailored messages, including a specific colorectal cancer screening test recommendation based on EHBM measure responses, was developed using a previously described approach.⁴¹ The IMCP used sequential tailoring. An initial module assessed and then provided tailored information to increase knowledge of colorectal cancer screening tests (Figure 1, boxes E2 and E2a). The next module assessed and provided tailored information to increase knowledge of screening harms and inconveniences (Figure 1, boxes E3 and E3a). The final module assessed self-efficacy, barriers, readiness, test preference, and screening history (Figure 1, box E4), and then provided tailored information to enhance self-efficacy, barriers, and readiness (Figure 1, boxes E4a, E4b, and E4c). The approach of addressing knowledge gaps before trying to influence other EHBM factors was grounded in research regarding the promotion of informed decisions.⁴² Previsit EHBM measures were administered sequentially so that responses to each would still be fresh in patients' minds when they viewed information tailored to the responses. Consistent with adult learning and behavioral theory, the IMCP allowed patients to decide how much information to view.^{6,43-45} The texts for the English and Spanish IMCP versions (average Flesch-Kincaid reading grade level 7.4) were developed by a previously described process.^{40,46} Examples of tailored IMCP content are available from the authors.

For the nontailored control program, after first completing all previsit study measures, control participants viewed nontailored colorectal cancer screening information, developed by the National Cancer Institute, in their preferred language (English or Spanish) (Figure 1, boxes C1 through C4, and C5, respectively).^{47,48}

Measures

EHBM sociopsychological factors were measured pre- and postvisit. As noted previously, the timing of previsit measures differed somewhat between the study intervention groups (Figure 1). Preference for a colorectal cancer screening test was assessed with a single, newly developed item (response options: do not want screening, prefer FOBT, prefer colonoscopy, prefer another test, or want screening but no specific test preferred).¹⁰ Knowledge of screening test options was measured with a 3-item scale, with true (1 point) vs false/don't know (0 points) responses (scores ranged from 0 to 3, with higher scores indicating greater knowledge).¹⁰ Knowledge of screening risks and inconveniences (scores ranged from 0 to 6) was measured with a 6-item scale, using true (1 point) vs false/don't

know (0 points) responses.¹⁰ Both screening knowledge scales were modeled on previously validated scales for assessing patient knowledge of health issues.⁴⁹

Colorectal cancer screening self-efficacy was measured using a 6-item scale; 3 items had been validated,⁵⁰ and 3 were modeled on previously validated items.⁵¹ Barriers to FOBT and colonoscopy were measured with validated 9- and 10-item scales, respectively.⁵² In the self-efficacy and barriers scales, respondents indicated their degree of agreement or disagreement with statements (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree). Item responses were averaged to yield total scores (range from 1 to 5, with higher scores indicating higher self-efficacy or fewer barriers). FOBTs and colonoscopy stage of readiness (precontemplation, contemplation, preparation) were measured using modifications of a validated item.⁵³ Prior FOBT and colonoscopy testing each were assessed with newly developed items (received vs not received/unsure).

Participants were asked whether screening was discussed during the visit and whether the clinician recommended screening (yes vs no/don't recall).

Colorectal cancer screening (FOBT, flexible sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy) during 12 months of follow-up was ascertained by review of electronic and paper medical records. Data collection personnel were not alerted to participants' study group.

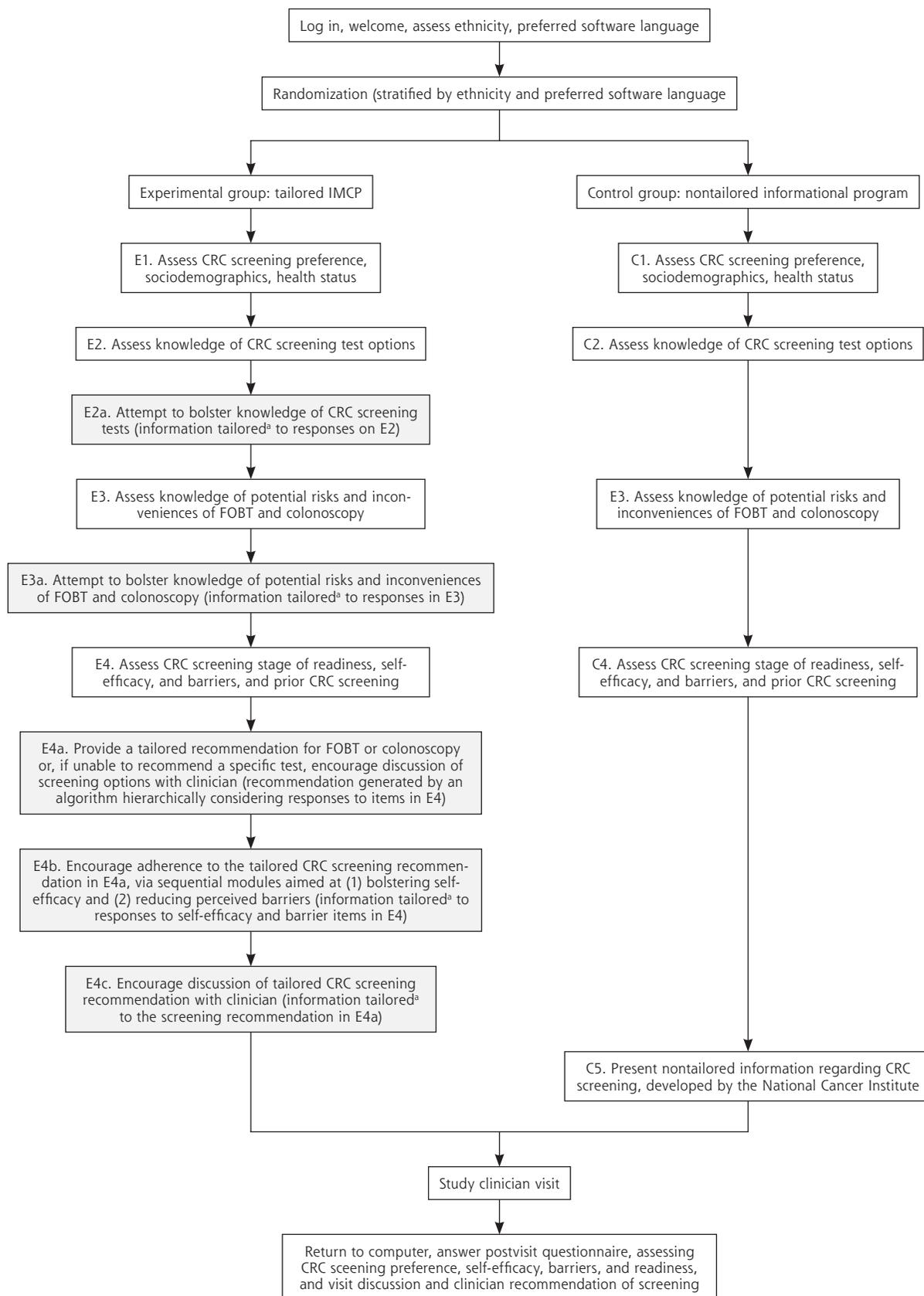
In addition to ethnicity and language (both assessed before initial randomization), several other participant characteristics were assessed at baseline to verify that the intervention groups were well matched on characteristics that could influence screening. Sociodemographic characteristics included age, sex, race (white, black, or other), income (less than \$10,000, \$10,000 to less than \$15,000, \$15,000 to less than \$25,000, \$25,000 to less than \$50,000, or greater than \$50,000), and education (less than high school, some high school, high school graduate, some college, or college graduate). Self-reported health literacy was assessed using a single item (scored from 1 to 5, with higher scores indicating worse literacy).⁵⁴ Health status was measured with the SF-12 Health Survey mental and physical component summaries (scored from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating better health).⁵⁵ A single item assessed length of the clinician-patient relationship (less than 1 year, 1 to 2 years, 3 to 5 years, more than 5 years, or unsure).

Satisfaction with the intervention was assessed using a 5-item scale (scored from 1 to 5, with higher scores indicating greater satisfaction). Study software use time in minutes was extracted from program logs.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using Stata 12.1 (StataCorp). Descriptive comparisons used χ^2 tests (categorical

Figure 1. Sequence and content of tailored IMCP and nontailored control interventions for colorectal screening.



CRC = colorectal cancer; FOBT = fecal occult blood test; IMCP = interactive multimedia computer program.

Note: shaded boxes indicate keying individually tailored modules of experimental IMCP.

^a Basic structure of tailoring in each module: (1) give all users brief feedback tailored to their responses to relevant questions; (2) offer the option to view more-detailed information.

variables) and *t* tests (continuous variables). In examining the effects of the key predictor (experimental vs control intervention) on postvisit status of sociopsychological factors and visit behaviors (the dependent variables), we used logistic regression for screening preference (preference for a specific test [FOBT or colonoscopy] vs no specific test preference), discussion of screening (vs no discussion), and clinician recommendation for screening (vs no recommendation). We used ordinal logistic regression to examine intervention effects on stage of readiness (most favorable stage from FOBT and colonoscopy readiness items [precontemplation, contemplation, or preparation]), whereas we used linear regression for screening knowledge (test options and risks/inconveniences scores combined), self-efficacy, and barriers. We analyzed the association of study intervention condition with screening with logistic regression (received FOBT and/or colonoscopy by 12 months or not) and Cox proportional hazards models (time to screening, censoring at 12 months). All of the above analyses were adjusted for study recruitment center and ethnicity/language strata (non-Hispanic, Hispanic/English, and Hispanic/Spanish). The sociopsychological factor models were additionally adjusted for the previsit value of the dependent variable.

To explore whether intervention effects varied by ethnicity/preferred language, further models added experimental intervention*ethnicity/preferred language interaction terms. Additional models stratified by ethnicity/preferred language were also fit.

RESULTS

Figure 2 shows the flow of participants through the study. We randomized 1,164 patients

(49.3% non-Hispanic, 27.2% Hispanic/English, 23.4% Hispanic/Spanish). There were no significant differences between study groups on previsit patient characteristics or intervention use time or satisfaction (Table 1).

Table 2 shows unadjusted sociopsychological factor status, visit behaviors, and colorectal cancer screening by study group. Previsit, tailored IMCP recipients had more favorable scores than control group participants for knowledge of screening harms and inconveniences,

Figure 2. Flow of participants through the trial.

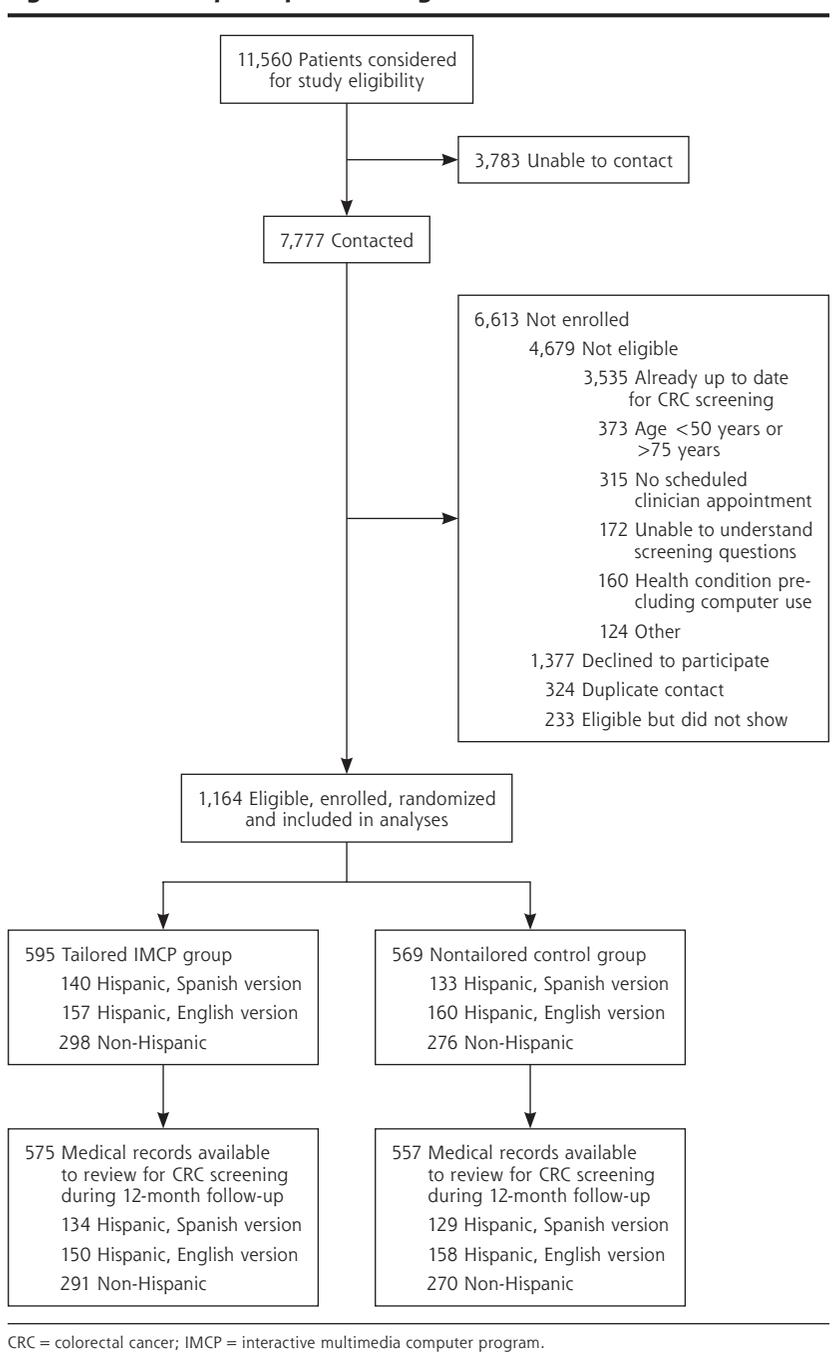


Table 1. Characteristics of the Participants by Study Group

Characteristics	Study Intervention Group ^a		Characteristics	Study Intervention Group ^a	
	Control N = 569	Tailored IMCP N = 595		Control N = 569	Tailored IMCP N = 595
Patient enrollment by performance site, %			Education level, %		
Rochester, New York	20.9	21.0	<High school	15.8	19.0
Bronx, New York	24.0	24.1	Some high school	21.5	18.1
Denver and Southwestern Colorado	15.6	16.0	High school graduate	25.1	23.8
San Antonio, Texas	17.9	16.7	Some college	18.5	20.9
Sacramento, California	21.6	22.2	College graduate	19.0	18.3
Sociodemographics			Income level, %		
Age, mean (SD), y	57.1 (6.2)	57.0 (6.1)	<\$10,000	33.2	35.0
Female, %	65.8	65.0	\$10,000 to <\$15,000	18.9	17.8
Spanish language version of software, %	23.5	23.4	\$15,000 to <\$25,000	17.8	14.7
Ethnicity/race category, %			\$25,000 to <\$50,000	14.5	15.3
Hispanic (any race)	51.5	49.7	>\$50,000	15.6	17.2
Non-Hispanic			Self-rated health literacy (range 1-5), mean (SD) ^f		
White	20.7	21.0		2.0 (1.2)	2.1 (1.3)
Black	23.0	24.9	Health-related characteristics		
Other race	4.7	4.4	Health status score (range 0-100), mean (SD) ^d		
Country of birth, %			SF-12 physical component summary		
United States	69.2	70.6		42.9 (11.1)	42.1 (11.7)
Argentina	9.5	7.6	SF-12 mental component summary		
Dominican Republic	7.7	9.6		45.4 (11.4)	45.5 (11.3)
Mexico	7.7	8.2	Duration of current primary care clinician relationship, %		
Puerto Rico	5.8	4.0	<1 y	26.3	24.6
Length of time living in United States, % ^b			1-2 y	18.9	16.8
<1 y	4.0	6.9	3-5 y	15.6	19.9
1-5 y	8.0	11.4	>5 y	36.1	36.5
6-10 y	8.6	9.7	Unsure	3.0	2.2
>10 y	79.4	72.0	Intervention factors		
			Software use time, mean (SD), min ^e		
				32.5 (22.2)	33.1 (21.8)
			Satisfaction with software score (range 1-5), mean (SD) ^f		
				4.2 (0.5)	4.3 (0.5)

IMCP = interactive multimedia computer program.

^a P >.10 for all comparisons of characteristics between groups (χ^2 test for categorical variables, t test for continuous variables).

^b Calculated using data from the 350 respondents (175 control, 175 tailored IMCP, 30% of overall sample) indicating a country of birth other than the United States.

^c Higher scores indicate lower self-assessed health literacy.

^d Higher scores indicate better health.

^e Based on available data from 550 control patients and 572 IMCP patients.

^f Higher scores indicate greater satisfaction.

total screening knowledge, and self-efficacy. Postvisit, IMCP recipients again had more favorable scores than control group participants for these measures, as well as for knowledge of test options and specific test preference. Visit discussion and clinician recommendation of screening (but not screening during follow-up) were more likely in the tailored IMCP group.

Table 3 shows the adjusted effects of the tailored IMCP on EHBM factors and visit behaviors. Compared with the control group, IMCP exposure led participants to higher screening knowledge, self-efficacy, and stage of readiness, a greater likelihood of preferring a specific test option, as well as more reported

discussion and clinician recommendation of screening. There were no significant IMCP effects on FOBT or colonoscopy barriers. There were no significant interactions between intervention and ethnicity/language in influencing outcomes (data not shown, available upon request). Among Hispanic persons, however, IMCP effects on EHBM factors were limited to greater knowledge, readiness, and specific test preference in the stratum preferring English. There were no significant IMCP effects on screening discussion or recommendation in the Hispanic strata.

Among 1,132 (97%) patients with available medical records, the tailored IMCP had no greater effect than

Table 2. Unadjusted Expanded Health Belief Model Sociopsychological Factor Status, Patient and Provider Visit Behaviors, and Colorectal Cancer Screening by Study Group

Characteristics (N = 1,164)	Intervention Group		Characteristics (N = 1,164)	Intervention Group	
	Control (N = 569)	Tailored IMCP (N = 595)		Control (N = 569)	Tailored IMCP (N = 595)
EHBM sociopsychological factors			Colonoscopy		
Specific test preference, %			Previsit	3.4 (0.7)	3.5 (0.6)
Previsit	62.6	64.5	Postvisit	3.5 (0.7)	3.5 (0.7)
Postvisit ^a	76.3	83.2	Stage of readiness, % ^d		
Screening knowledge score, mean (SD)			Precontemplation		
Test options (score range 0-3) ^b			Previsit	11.1	4.9
Previsit	1.6 (0.8)	1.7 (0.8)	Postvisit	7.4	6.2
Postvisit ^c	1.9 (0.8)	2.2 (0.8)	Contemplation		
Harms/inconveniences (score range 0-6) ^{b,d}			Previsit	63.0	62.0
Previsit ^c	3.7 (2.1)	4.3 (2.1)	Postvisit	59.5	54.5
Postvisit ^c	4.1 (2.3)	5.0 (2.4)	Preparation		
Total (score range 0-9) ^{b,e}			Previsit	25.9	33.0
Previsit ^c	5.3 (2.5)	5.9 (2.5)	Postvisit	33.0	39.4
Postvisit ^c	6.0 (2.7)	7.2 (2.8)	Self-reported prior CRC screening, % ^d		
Self-efficacy score (score range 1-5), mean (SD) ^{d,f}			FOBT	26.5	26.9
Previsit ^c	3.8 (0.7)	4.1 (0.7)	Colonoscopy	13.2	15.9
Postvisit ^a	3.9 (0.7)	4.0 (0.6)	Patient-reported visit behaviors, %		
Barriers score (score range 1-5), mean (SD) ^{d,g}			CRC screening discussed	34.8	41.2
Previsit	3.5 (0.8)	3.5 (0.8)	Clinician recommended CRC screening	50.2	59.0
Postvisit	3.5 (0.7)	3.5 (0.8)	CRC screening, No. (%)^h	123 (22.1)	132 (23.0)

CRC = colorectal cancer; IMCP = interactive multimedia computer program; EHBM = expanded health belief model; FOBT = fecal occult blood testing.

^a P < .01.

^b Higher scores indicate greater knowledge.

^c P < .001 for difference in scores between intervention groups (c² test for categorical variables, t test for continuous variables).

^d In the tailored IMCP group, these questions were answered after participants had viewed some information tailored to their knowledge of colorectal cancer screening options (see Methods and Figure 1 for details).

^e Total knowledge score is sum of scores for knowledge of screening test options and knowledge of screening harms and inconveniences scales.

^f Higher scores indicate higher self-efficacy.

^g Higher scores indicate fewer barriers.

^h During 12 months of follow-up, based on review of medical records, available for 1,132 participants (575 IMCP patients, 557 controls).

control on colorectal cancer screening (Table 3). Figure 3 shows the Kaplan-Meier curves for screening in both study groups during 12 months follow-up.

DISCUSSION

An IMCP tailored to EHBM sociopsychological factors was no more effective than a nontailored informational program in improving objectively measured colorectal cancer screening even though the IMCP successfully enhanced most of the EHBM factors and both targeted visit behaviors, all previously associated with screening. Of previous randomized controlled trials comparing a sociopsychologically tailored colorectal cancer screening intervention with an active control,^{15,19,20,22,25-30,33} only some reported improvements in

screening,^{19,25,28,29,34} in most instances based on patient report,^{19,25,28,29} suggesting possible misclassification bias. These observations, plus our current findings, raise doubts about the superiority of sociopsychological tailoring to nontailored approaches in promoting colorectal cancer screening.

Only 1 previous trial of colorectal cancer screening included sociopsychological tailoring in a multiethnic sample as part of a multifaceted intervention, but it did not examine tailoring effects specifically.²⁵ The effects of our IMCP on sociopsychological factors and visit behaviors did not differ significantly among ethnicity/language strata. Although this finding might suggest sociopsychological tailoring holds promise for reducing screening disparities, the lack of superior IMCP effects on screening indicates that promise remains

Table 3. Adjusted Effects of the Tailored Intervention (vs Control) on Postvisit Sociopsychological Factors, Visit Behaviors, and Colorectal Cancer Screening

Outcome	Entire Sample PE ^a (95% CI)	Stratified by Ethnicity/Preferred Language		
		Non-Hispanic PE ^a (95% CI)	Hispanic/English PE ^a (95% CI)	Hispanic/Spanish PE ^a (95% CI)
EHBM sociopsychological factors ^b				
Prefer specific test option, %	6.8 (2.2 to 11.4) ^c	5.8 (−0.9 to 12.4)	11.1 (1.7 to 20.6) ^d	4.3 (−3.8 to 12.5)
Screening knowledge (total) ^e	1.15 (0.86 to 1.44) ^f	1.46 (1.04 to 1.87) ^f	1.28 (0.70 to 1.86) ^f	0.39 (−0.18 to 0.95)
Screening self-efficacy	0.10 (0.03 to 0.18) ^c	0.11 (0.00 to 0.22) ^d	0.11 (−0.03 to 0.25)	0.07 (−0.07 to 0.21)
Perceived screening barriers				
FOBT	0.03 (−0.05 to 0.12)	0.05 (−0.07 to 0.16)	0.02 (−0.14 to 0.18)	0.01 (−0.16 to 0.18)
Colonoscopy	0.02 (−0.06 to 0.09)	0.02 (−0.09 to 0.13)	−0.02 (−0.18 to 0.13)	0.07 (−0.10 to 0.24)
Stage of readiness for screening	1.32 (1.05 to 1.66) ^d	1.44 (1.03 to 2.00) ^d	1.69 (1.07 to 2.67) ^d	0.86 (0.53 to 1.38)
Visit behaviors, % ^g				
Discussion CRC screening	8.6 (3.1 to 14.2) ^c	9.2 (1.4 to 17.0) ^d	10.5 (−0.2 to 21.2)	6.0 (−5.7 to 17.8)
Recommendation CRC screening	6.4 (1.0 to 11.8) ^d	8.1% (0.4 to 15.8%) ^d	8.3 (−2.0 to 18.5%)	3.1 (−7.5 to 13.7)
CRC screening, % ^h	0.5 (−4.3 to 5.3)	−0.3 (−7.4 to 6.8)	−1.3 (−9.3 to 6.8)	4.3 (−6.1 to 14.6)

CRC = colorectal cancer; EHBM = expanded health belief model; FOBT = fecal occult blood testing; IMCP = interactive multimedia computer program; PE = parameter estimate; SE = self-efficacy.

^a Parameter estimates for total knowledge (score range = 0-9) and self-efficacy (score range = 1-5) represent the amount of change in score (ie, points); parameter estimates for specific test preference, discussion and recommendation of colorectal cancer screening, and colorectal cancer screening represent percentage point increases or decreases; parameter estimate for stage of readiness represents the odds of an increase in stage.

^b All sociopsychological factor models were adjusted for the previsit value of the dependent variable and study recruitment center; the entire sample analyses also were adjusted for ethnicity/language strata.

^c *P* < .01.

^d *P* < .05.

^e Analyses examined effects on a total colorectal cancer screening knowledge scale, derived by combining the scores for the knowledge of screening test options and knowledge of screening risks and inconveniences scales.

^f *P* < .001.

^g All visit behavior models were adjusted for study recruitment center; the entire sample analyses also were adjusted for ethnicity/language strata.

^h Based on review of medical records, available for 1,132 participants (575 IMCP patients, 557 control patients). All receipt of screening models were adjusted for study recruitment center; the entire sample analysis also was adjusted for ethnicity/language strata.

unfulfilled. The greater simplicity and lower cost of the nontailored control compared with the IMCP intervention, coupled with its similar behavioral effects, suggests that wider use of one-time computer-delivered sociopsychological tailoring may not be cost-effective. Others have reached similar conclusions.⁵⁶

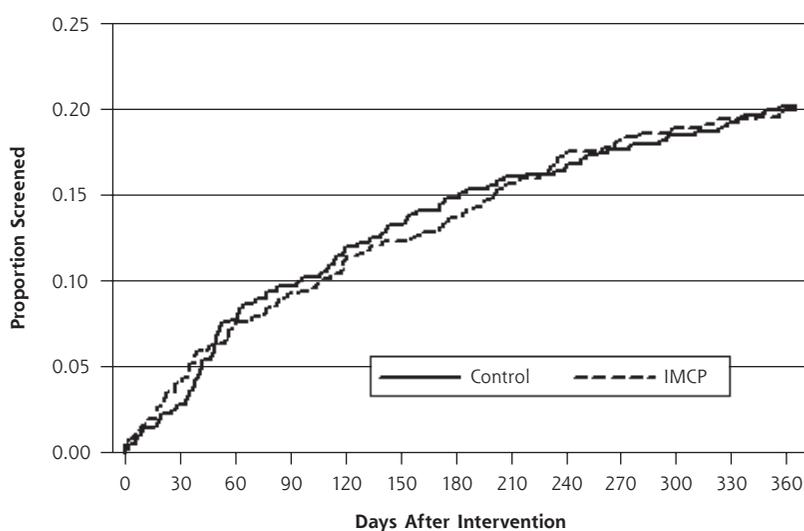
One possible explanation for the lack of superior effects of sociopsychological tailoring on screening is that EHBM factors are insufficiently enhanced. Previsit sociopsychological factor scores were favorable in our sample, leaving relatively little room for improvement. There was no significant effect of the tailored IMCP on screening barriers, and the effect sizes for the other EHBM factors and visit behaviors were small. For example, compared with control, the IMCP produced a 0.16 SD increase in self-efficacy; effect sizes around 0.2 are generally viewed as small.⁵⁷ Nonetheless, these EHBM factor effect sizes are comparable to those in published trials.¹⁰⁻²²

In our sample, a 1 SD increase in self-efficacy was associated with a 5.4% greater likelihood of screening (data not shown, available upon request). Thus, the IMCP self-efficacy effect size of 0.16 would be expected to translate into a less than 1% increase in

screening (5.4% × 0.16 = 0.86%). The small estimated IMCP effect on screening is consistent with the findings of prior tailoring trials, most of which focused on EHBM factors. In 2 meta-analyses of randomized controlled trials examining sociopsychological tailoring effects on health behaviors (almost exclusively self-reported), the estimated mean behavioral effect sizes were 0.074 (95% CI, 0.066-0.082) and 0.17 (95% CI, 0.14-0.19).^{23,24} In this context, our findings suggest the need to study the behavioral effects of tailoring to sociopsychological factors other than those in the EHBM. Several promising candidates exist, such as regulatory focus and preference for autonomy-supportive (vs directive) communication.^{58,59}

It may also be that enhancement of complex, temporally far-removed behaviors is too much to expect from a single, brief, computerized tailoring exposure. Weeks to months of delay are common subsequent to a clinician's order for colorectal cancer screening, particularly for colonoscopy,⁶⁰ the most frequently utilized test in our sample and nationally.⁶¹ We did not serially measure the status of sociopsychological factors, but the salutary effects of tailoring on these factors likely waned with time. Our experience suggests

Figure 3. Kaplan-Meier curve for receipt of colorectal cancer screening after intervention according to study group.



IMCP = interactive multimedia computer program.
 Note: Screening was ascertained by medical record review.

that one-time computerized tailoring may favorably influence immediate sociopsychological and behavioral outcomes, including acceptance of initial care for depression during a linked office visit.⁶² By contrast, promoting such behaviors as colorectal cancer screening may require repeated tailoring exposures (eg, via the Internet or telephone texting) or linkage with other approaches (eg, reminder e-mails, telephone care management, clinician-focused interventions).⁶³⁻⁶⁵

Another possible explanation for the lack of tailoring effects on screening is that the IMCP did not address cultural factors, especially those affecting Hispanic participants. Even so, although differences in screening between ethnicity/language groups were not statistically significant, the IMCP effect on screening was largest in the Hispanic/Spanish group (Table 3). IMCP effects on sociopsychological factors and visit behaviors also were similar among ethnicity/language groups (Table 3), with no significant intervention*ethnicity/language interaction. Furthermore, research suggests that EHBM sociopsychological factors are relevant across cultural groups.^{25,36}

Our study had limitations. Randomization by patient was used for feasibility but may have diluted the intervention effects had study clinicians interacting with IMCP patients treated control patients differently. Record documentation may have been missing for some screened patients, so the screening rates reported here are likely conservative. Still, because rates of missing study data should not differ by study group, compar-

isons of screening between groups should not have been affected. We measured the study visit behaviors using patient report, which is subject to biases. Alternative methods of assessing visit behaviors also have limitations. For example, clinician reports may also be biased, and observing or recording visits may change the behaviors. In the tailored IMCP (but not control) group, the pre-visit measures of some EHBM factors were not true baseline (preintervention) measures (Figure 1). As a result, previsit imbalances favored the IMCP group for the knowledge of screening harms and inconveniences and self-efficacy measures (Table 2), leaving less room for improvement in these factors. Because analyses of IMCP effects on these factors are biased toward the null, our estimates for these factors may be conservative.

In conclusion, 1-time EHBM sociopsychological factor tailoring delivered by an IMCP was no more effective than nontailored information in encouraging objectively measured colorectal cancer screening in a multiethnic sample, despite salutary effects on sociopsychological factors and visit behaviors predictive of screening. Furthermore, IMCP effects did not differ significantly among ethnicity and preferred language subgroups. The findings raise doubts regarding the utility of single-exposure sociopsychological factor tailoring in promoting and reducing ethnic disparities in colorectal cancer screening.

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Key words: colorectal neoplasms; computer-assisted instruction; early detection of cancer; expanded health belief model; health behavior; health care disparities; health education; health promotion; Hispanic Americans; outcome and process assessment (health care); patient acceptance of health care; randomized controlled trial; software

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