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Dr. Khan sees this study as a jumping off point for further research into why exactly this is happening, and what can be done. It is an inherent and unconscious bias among medical providers that can be addressed with more training and communications, or is this something that can only be fixed with finding of more research and ensuring clinical trials and the workforce reflect the diverse population.

“We are currently looking at our own catchment area taking advantage of our expertise and large patient volume to try and answer some of these questions. Tumor biology cannot be ignored, and with Dr. Khan’s lab is working in collaboration with Caroline Johnson, PhD, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, and Lin Lu, PhD, Associate Professor of Genomic Medicine have found differences exist in tumor biology as well. "Research universities and healthcare systems need to engage community leaders of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in quality improvement campaigns, including calling out evidence of the disparate treatment of patients of color, as well as work to recruit and retain underrepresented minorities."

While these findings are important, they are just the start of a much larger conversation. This study brings awareness to the topic and focuses on it with data. However, more investigation is needed to really pinpoint the multifactorial causes. As of now, again start is learning to listen and respond to what patients actually say. This could be a simple yet powerful, antidote to bias.”

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