Physical and psychosocial changes during the menopause transition among Latinas: A

narrative review

Cortes, Y., Marginean, V.

An estimated 6,000 women reach menopause each day. Despite the growth of an aging

Latino population, Latinas remain underrepresented in the literature related to menopause. The

purpose of this narrative review is to summarize the evidence on menopause-related physiological

and psychosocial changes among Latinas. A thorough search of PubMed was performed. Our

review showed that Latinas experience greater rates of social function problems, sleep disturbances

(38.0%), and higher prevalence of metabolic syndrome (21.0%) than non-Hispanic White women

during the menopause transition. However, Latinas report a shorter duration of vasomotor

symptoms and greater social support during this period. Further studies with larger samples of

midlife Latinas are necessary to examine the health of Latinas during the menopause transition. In

addition, because Latinas are a heterogeneous group from different cultures and social contexts,

researchers and clinicians should examine the role of sociocultural factors during the menopause

transition. Understanding how the menopause transition affects the health of midlife Latinas may

improve the health care of aging Latinas.

Keywords: Latinas, menopause, vasomotor symptoms, aging