

# Racial Determinants in the Posthospitalization Management and Outcomes for Patients With Rib Fractures

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Rib fractures are a common traumatic injury and a predictor of increased morbidity and mortality. Post hospitalization management of rib fractures differs by institution, in particular regarding surveillance X-rays and procedures. We investigated the hospitalization and post hospitalization outcomes for patients with rib fractures at a single Level 1 trauma Center.

**Methods:** Rib fracture patients admitted from 11/1/2018 to 10/31/2019 were included. Demographics, outcomes and results of inpatient and outpatient imaging were collected. Analysis was done with a Chi-squared test.

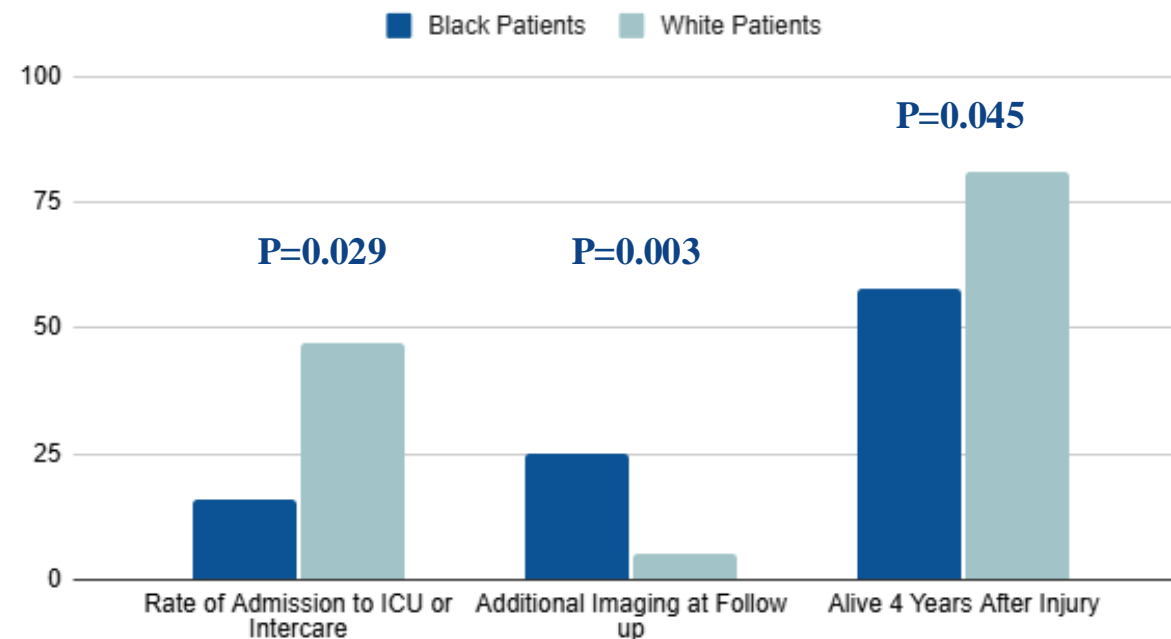
**Patients Included:**

290 Total Patients  
278 White Patients  
12 Black Patients

**Characteristics:**

No significant differences found between:  
Age  
Gender  
ISS (Injury Severity Score),  
LOS (Length of Stay)  
Initial X-ray Pathology

**Results**



**Conclusion:** Despite small numbers, this analysis reveals three important disparities in rib fracture care based on race.

1. Black patients were less likely to be admitted to higher level of care despite statistically unchanged ISS and Imaging findings
2. Black Patients are more likely to have repeat imaging rather than procedures or admissions after an outpatient appointment
3. Black patients in this cohort were less likely to be alive at 4 years.

Further work is needed to increase awareness regarding the effects of implicit bias on patient care.