



# Road Workers' Dilemma: Exploring Health Equity in the Management of Malignant Small Bowel Obstruction

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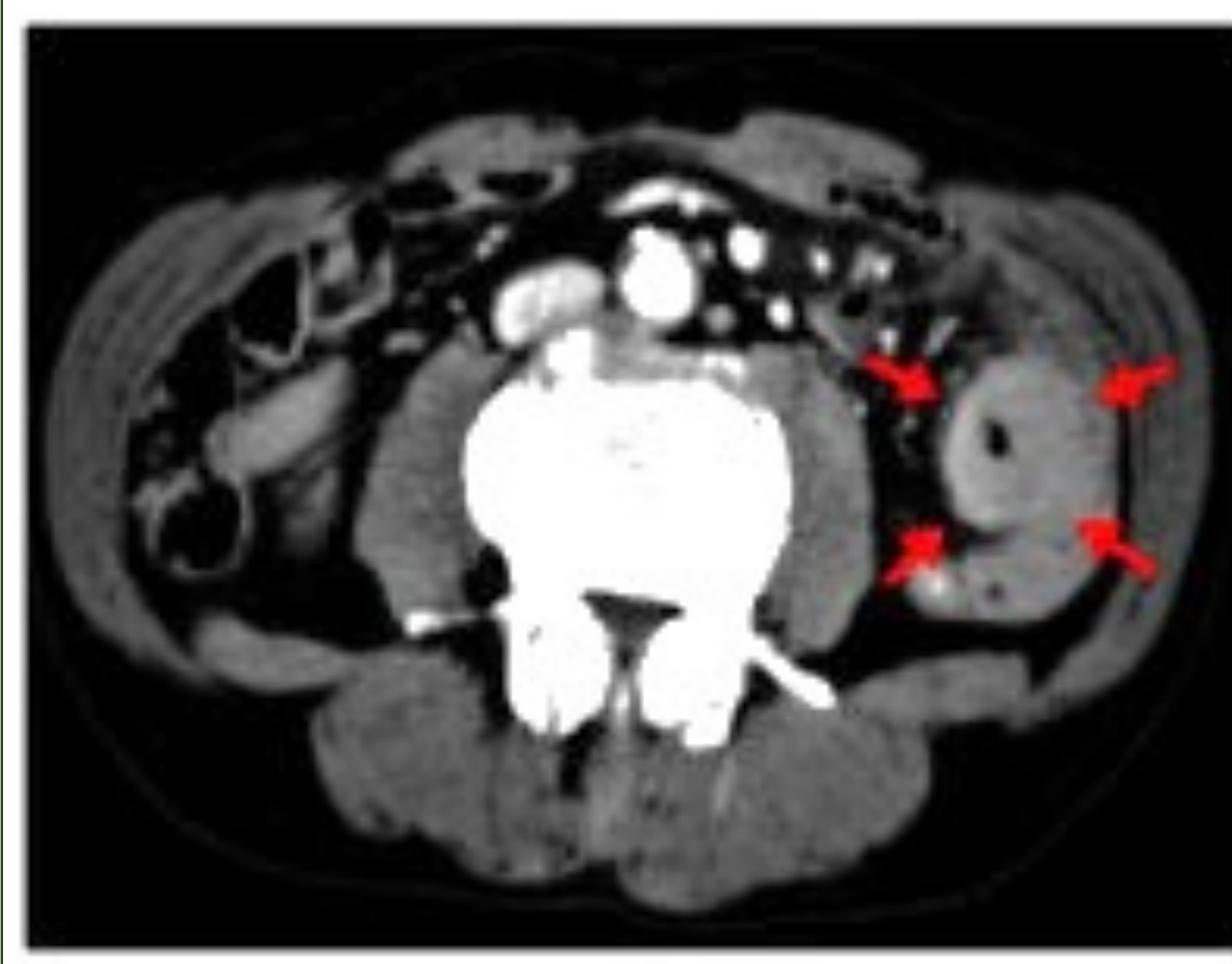


## BACKGROUND

African American/Black patients experience cancer care disparities contributing to higher morbidity and mortality.<sup>1,2</sup>

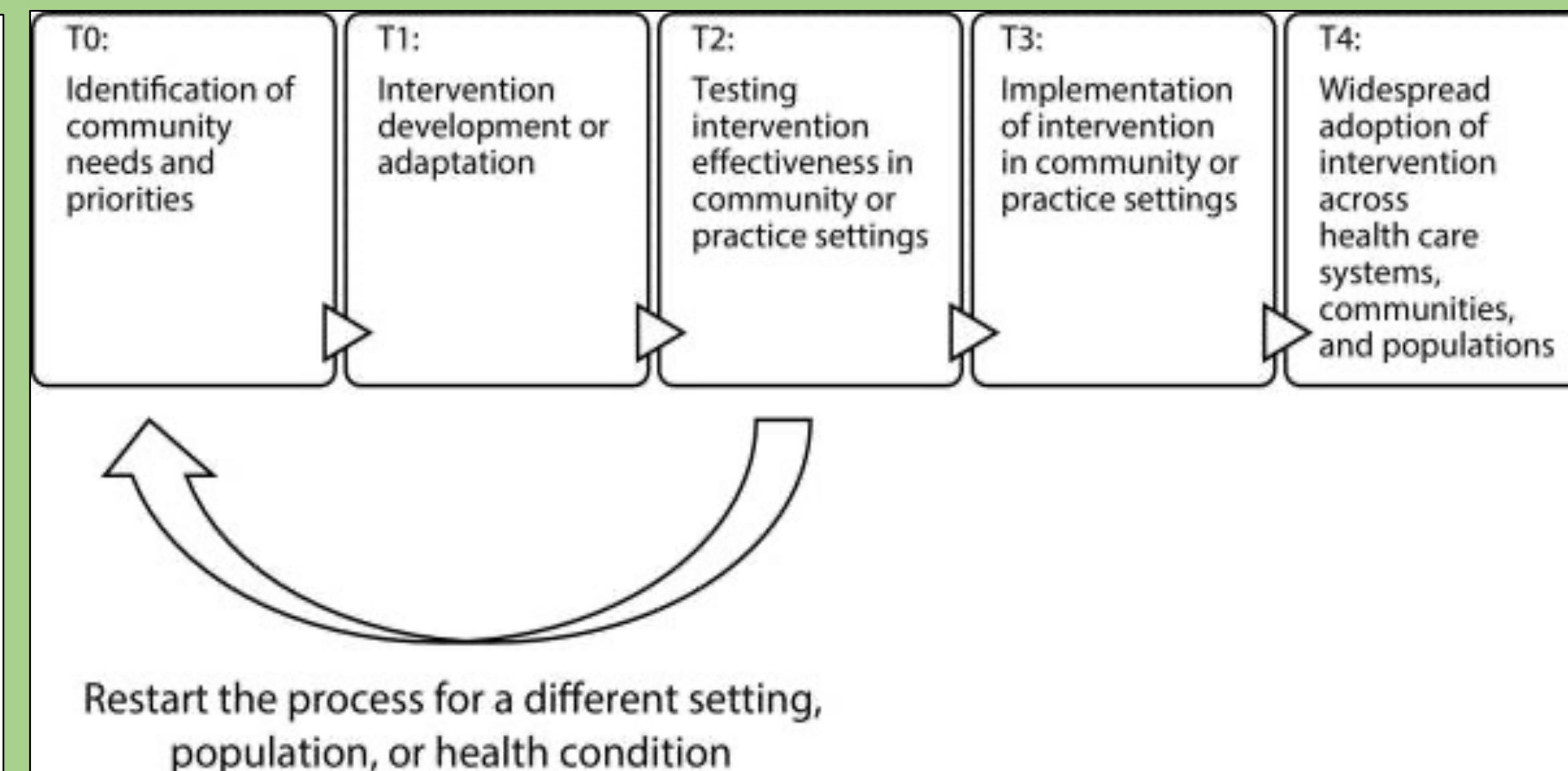
### Study Aim

This study evaluates interventions for malignant small bowel obstruction (mSBO), a common complication of metastatic cancer, to investigate the potential influence of race on its management.



This CT scan demonstrates a malignant SBO due to esophageal cancer metastasis with upstream dilation and downstream collapse.<sup>3</sup>

## STUDY FRAMEWORK



*Translational Research Continuum for Health Disparity Interventions.*<sup>4</sup>

## METHOD

We retrospectively reviewed charts at a US academic medical center, identifying 283 patients with malignant small bowel obstruction (mSBO).

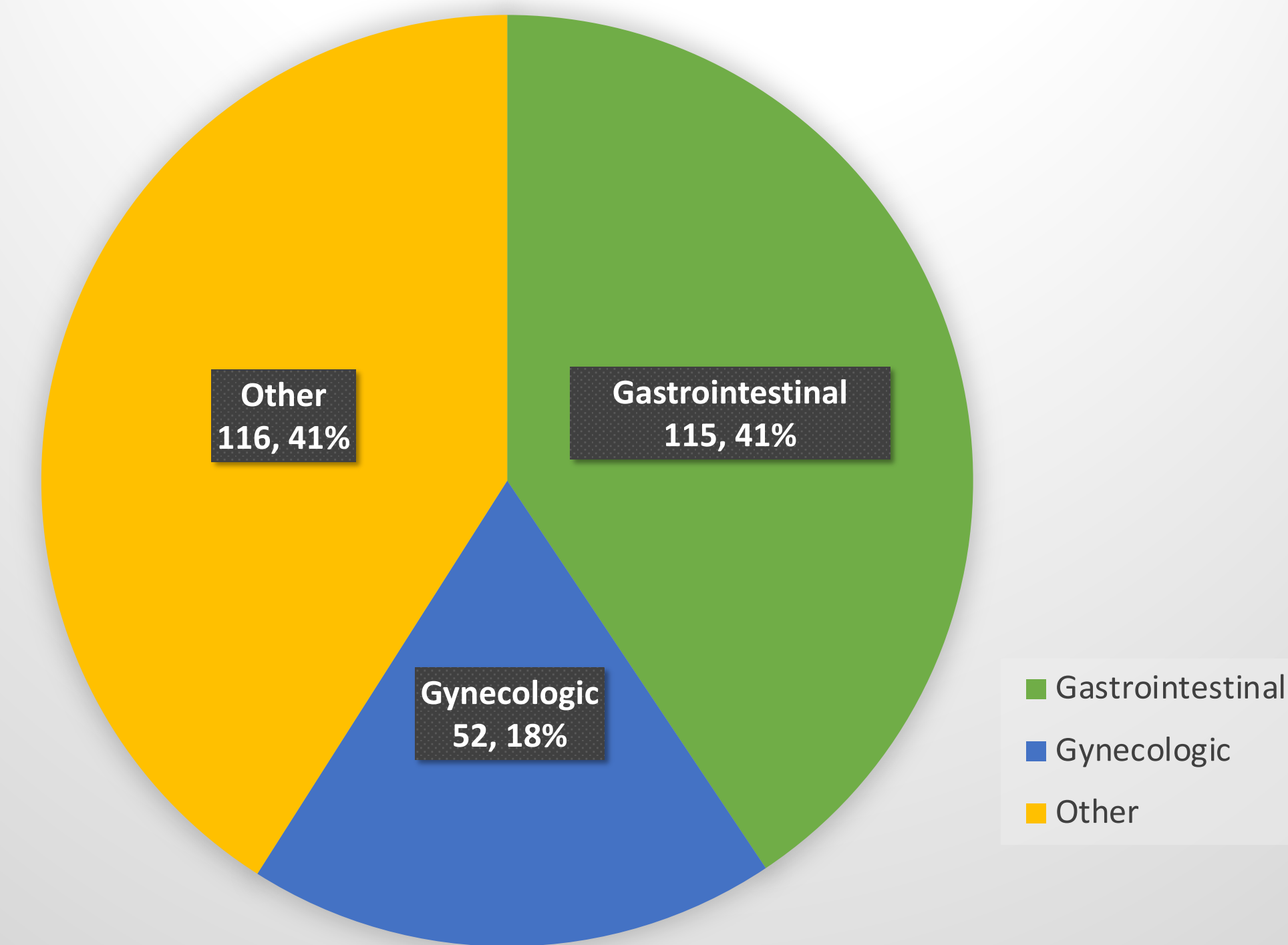
### Assessed Constructs

Construct Groups	Variables
Demographics	Age, birth sex, gender, race, ethnicity
Hospital Stay	Date of current admission and discharge
Diagnosis	Cancer and mSBO diagnosis
Medical Intervention History	Surgical intervention, non-surgical intervention, endoscopic intervention, gastrograftin challenge, nasogastric decompression
Medical Intervention Outcomes	Return to baseline diet, tolerating baseline diet, resolution of mSBO
Dexamethasone Use	Yes or No

## RESULT

30% of Black patients, compared to 19% of Non-Black patients, did not receive an NGT.

### Cancer Diagnosis Groups



- Gynecologic cancers - Breast (7.8% vs. 3.1%) and genitourinary (12% vs. 5.4%) were higher in Black patients.
- mSBO from gastrointestinal cancers had a higher likelihood of resolution (34%) compared to gynecologic cancers (18%).

### Study Outcomes

Variables	Overall	Non-Black	Black	P-value
<b>NGT Insertion</b>				0.038*
No	70 (25%)	24 (19%)	46 (30%)	
Yes	210 (75%)	104 (81%)	106 (70%)	
Missing	3	2	1	
<b>Dexamethasone Use</b>				0.76
No	223 (79%)	104 (80%)	119 (78%)	
Yes	60 (21%)	26 (20%)	34 (22%)	
<b>SBO Resolution</b>				0.89
No	137 (48%)	64 (49%)	73 (48%)	
Yes	146 (52%)	66 (51%)	80 (52%)	

## CONCLUSION

Unexplored variations in non-surgical mSBO management may exist in racial groups, requiring further research to enhance insights into health equity in cancer care.

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### References

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