

Socioeconomic status affects cancer trial referrals

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Patients of lower socioeconomic status are less likely to be referred to participate in early-phase cancer trials compared with patients of higher socioeconomic status, according to research published online Dec. 3 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

(HealthDay)—Patients of lower socioeconomic status are less likely to be referred to participate in early-phase cancer trials compared with patients of higher socioeconomic status, according to research published online Dec. 3 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Aisyah Mohd Noor, M.D., of King's College London, and colleagues used data from 10,784 incident cases to examine the effect of patient socioeconomic status on access to early-phase [cancer trials](#).

The researchers found that 430 patients were referred to an early-phase [oncology](#) trials unit. Patients in the more-deprived quintiles were significantly less likely to be referred compared with patients in the less-

deprived quintiles (odds ratio, 0.53). After review in the unit, trial enrollment was not affected by socioeconomic status. Non-white patients were significantly less likely to be recruited (odds ratio, 0.48), but after adjustment for age, gender, [cancer type](#), and deprivation index, the association did not persist.

"The least-deprived patients are almost twice as likely to be referred compared with the most deprived," the authors write. "This may be because more-deprived patients are less suitable for a trial—as a result of comorbidities, for example—or because of inequalities that could be addressed by patient or referrer education. Once reviewed at the unit, enrollment onto a trial is not affected by deprivation."

More information: [Abstract](#)
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