

# Low adherence rates for prostate cancer quality of care measures

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(HealthDay)—Adherence to established prostate cancer quality of care measures is frequently low, with considerable regional variation, according to a study published in the April issue of *The Journal of Urology*.

Florian R. Schroeck, M.D., from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and colleagues conducted a retrospective study to examine [regional variation](#) in [adherence](#) to quality measures for 53,614 patients with newly diagnosed [prostate cancer](#). Patients were identified from Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results-Medicare data for 2001 to 2007, and were assigned to 661 regions.

The researchers observed extensive patient-level variation in adherence, varying from 33 percent for treatment by a high-volume provider to 76 percent for adjuvant androgen deprivation therapy receipt while

undergoing radiation for high-risk cancer. Considerable regional variation was observed in adherence to several measures, including pretherapy counseling by a urologist and radiation oncologist, which ranged from 9 to 89 percent; avoiding bone scan overuse in low-risk cancer, which ranged from 16 to 96 percent; treatment by a high-volume provider, which ranged from 1 to 90 percent; and follow-up with a [radiation oncologist](#), which varied from 14 to 86 percent (all P

"We found low adherence rates for most established prostate cancer quality of care measures. Within most measures regional variation in adherence was pronounced," the authors write. "Measures with low adherence and a large amount of regional variation may be important low hanging targets for quality improvement."

One author disclosed financial ties to Amgen; one author disclosed financial ties to Elsevier.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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