

Race affects opioid selection for cancer pain

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(HealthDay)—Racial disparities exist in the type of opioid prescribed for cancer pain, according to a study published online July 21 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Salimah H. Meghani, Ph.D., R.N., from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and colleagues recruited 182 patients from clinics within a single health system. All participants reported the presence of cancer-related pain plus a prescription for morphine or oxycodone. The abbreviated Modification of Diet in Renal Disease formula was used to estimate kidney function.

The researchers found that the severity of analgesic-related adverse effects was greater for patients with [chronic kidney disease](#) (CKD) who received morphine versus oxycodone (P = 0.010). Compared with white patients, African-American patients had 71 percent lower odds of receiving a prescription of oxycodone (P

"Reducing racial disparities in the type of opioid prescription and understanding mechanisms of disproportionate opioid-related [adverse effects](#) in African-American patients might decrease the clinical disparities in cancer pain outcomes," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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