

# Race affects opioid selection for cancer pain

July 25 2014

---

(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](#)  
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2014 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Race affects opioid selection for cancer pain (2014, July 25) retrieved 1 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-07-affects-opioid-cancer-pain.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.