

Physicians hit barriers in making cancer referrals

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(HealthDay)—Many physicians report encountering barriers when referring cancer patients to specialty care, according to research published in the Jan. 1 issue of *Cancer*.

Daniel H. Kwon, from the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California in Los Angeles, and colleagues analyzed responses (1,562 [primary care physicians](#) [PCPs] and 2,144 specialists) to the multiregional Cancer Care Outcomes Research and Surveillance Consortium physician survey. Assessed physician-reported barriers to cancer specialist referrals included: restricted provider networks, preauthorization requirements, patient inability to pay, lack of surgical subspecialists, and excessive patient travel time.

The researchers found that three in five [physicians](#) reported always, usually, or sometimes encountering any barrier to [cancer patient](#) specialty referrals. International medical graduates, physicians practicing in solo or government-owned practices, and physicians with

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