

Industry-led oncology trials may inflate cost-effectiveness

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(HealthDay)—Pharmaceutical industry-sponsored studies are more likely to report favorable estimates in cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) of drugs used in breast cancer treatment, according to a research letter published online Dec. 10 in *JAMA Oncology*.

Jordan D. Lane, M.D., from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and colleagues examined CEAs for [breast cancer](#) from the Tufts Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Registry.

Independent associations between industry sponsorship and study results were estimated, after adjustment for drug class, cancer stage targeted, and study [quality](#) score.

The researchers found that 65 of the 105 CEA studies were industry funded. Industry-sponsored studies had nonsignificantly higher study

quality ratings (mean rating, 4.8 versus 4.4 for studies with other sponsorship; $P = 0.09$). Industry-sponsored studies were significantly more likely to report favorable cost-effectiveness results compared with other sponsored studies (75.4 versus 40.0 percent at \$50,000/quality-adjusted life-year [QALY]; $P = 0.004$). Industry-sponsored studies were more likely to report favorable findings among the subset of CEAs with high quality ratings (75.5 versus 45.5 percent; $P = 0.04$ at the \$50,000/QALY threshold).

"Our [analysis](#) of breast cancer CEAs suggests that pharmaceutical industry-sponsored studies continue to be more likely to report favorable estimates than studies with other sponsorship," the authors write.

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

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