

Knowledge on primary prevention ICD use found lacking

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(HealthDay)—Referring physicians have limited knowledge regarding

indications for primary prevention implantable defibrillator (ICD) use, according to a study published online Aug. 25 in the *Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology*.

Rochelle Bernier, from the University of Alberta in Canada, and colleagues invited referring physicians to participate in a web-based survey consisting of case scenarios regarding primary prevention ICD indications and a list of barriers for referral. The survey was completed by 109 physicians: 55 percent internists, 32 percent cardiologists, and 13 percent cardiology residents.

The researchers found that 34 percent of physicians provided complete guideline-concordant answers. Predictors of complete guideline concordance included being a cardiologist or a cardiology resident (odds ratios, 5.9 and 6.7, respectively). For internists, the most common barrier for referral was lack of confidence in knowledge of [guideline recommendations](#), while cardiologists and cardiology residents reported concerns relating to cost-effectiveness and inappropriate shocks, respectively.

"Knowledge regarding indications for [primary prevention](#) ICD is limited and varies significantly among referring physicians," the authors write. "The barriers for referral differ among [physician](#) groups and addressing these identified barriers may help to improve appropriate ICD utilization."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to medical device companies.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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