

Lower mortality seen for cardiac care at top-ranked hospitals

November 29 2018



(HealthDay)—Compared with nonranked hospitals, top-ranked hospitals

have lower 30-day mortality but similar or higher readmission rates for cardiovascular conditions, according to a study published online Nov. 28 in *JAMA Cardiology*.

David E. Wang, M.D., from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional study involving 3,552 U.S. hospitals to examine whether *US News & World Report* top-ranked hospitals for cardiology and [heart surgery](#) perform better than nonranked hospitals on [mortality rates](#) and readmission measures.

The researchers found that compared with 3,502 nonranked hospitals, the 50 top-ranked hospitals had lower 30-day mortality rates for [acute myocardial infarction](#) (AMI; 11.9 versus 13.2 percent; P coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG; 2.3 versus 3.3 percent; P heart failure (21 versus 19.2 percent; P

"It is possible that top-ranked and nonranked hospitals have focused substantial resources on reducing readmissions rather than mortality rates given the financial push of the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program, which resulted in generally similar readmission rates but disparate mortality rates between these hospital groups," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

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

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Citation: Lower mortality seen for cardiac care at top-ranked hospitals (2018, November 29) retrieved 5 May 2024 from

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