

Rates of prescription opioid use higher in cancer survivors

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(HealthDay)—Cancer survivors have higher rates of prescription opioid

use but do not have increased rates of prescription opioid misuse compared with those without a history of cancer, according to a study published online Aug. 17 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Vikram Jairam, M.D., from the Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional study involving 169,162 [respondents](#) to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health from January 2015 to December 2018 to compare the prevalence and likelihood of prescription opioid use and misuse for adult [cancer](#) survivors and respondents without cancer.

Of the respondents, 5.2 percent were cancer survivors, with 1.2 and 4.0 percent reporting having more recent and less recent cancer histories, respectively. The researchers found that compared with respondents without cancer, the rates of prescription opioid use were higher for more recent cancer survivors and less recent cancer survivors (54.3 and 39.2 percent, respectively, versus 20.5 percent; odds ratios, 1.86 [95 percent confidence interval (CI), 1.57 to 2.20; P drug use disorder were significantly associated with prescription opioid misuse.

"These findings suggest that increased prescription opioid use among [cancer survivors](#) does not necessarily translate to a higher risk of misuse," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the medical technology industry.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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