

# Racial disparities persist in multiple myeloma care, outcomes

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(HealthDay)—There are persistent disparities in multiple myeloma

(MM) care for non-Hispanic (NH)-Blacks and Hispanics compared with NH-Whites, according to a study published online July 18 in *Leukemia & Lymphoma*.

Samer Al Hadidi, M.D., from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and colleagues analyzed trends of MM-related hospitalization and incidence of in-[hospital mortality](#) in a 10-year retrospective cross-sectional analysis of inpatient hospitalizations from 2008 to 2017 using the Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

The researchers found that NH-Blacks had a higher prevalence of MM-related hospitalizations than NH-Whites (476.0 versus 305.6 per 100,000 hospitalizations). Compared with NH-Whites and NH-Blacks, Hispanics had higher MM-related in-[hospital mortality](#) (6.2 versus 5.3 percent). Among all MM patients, there was a statistically significant decline seen for in-hospital mortality, except among NH-Blacks, who had the highest inpatient mortality in recent years. Fewer transplants, more blood product transfusions, fewer [palliative care](#) consults, less inpatient chemotherapy, and more intensive care utilization were seen for NH-Blacks in a multivariate analysis.

"The improvement in the trend of in-hospital mortality for NH-Whites and Hispanics suggests that NH-Blacks are not receiving the benefits of MM treatment advancements, a disease that affects them more frequently than other groups," the authors write. "The persistence of MM outcome disparities constitutes a clarion call for an immediate strategy to address these long-lasting inequalities."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

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

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