



The Daily Briefing

News for Health Care Executives

Could statins become a part of cancer treatment?

Lowering cholesterol linked to lower breast cancer risk

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Lowering cholesterol with statins could help prevent the onset of breast cancer, according to a new study presented at the Frontiers in Cardiovascular Biology conference in Spain.

If you answer 'yes' to any of these questions, you probably need a statin

For the study, U.K. researchers analyzed data on 664,000 women collected through the Algorithm for Comorbidities, Associations Length of Stay and Mortality study. Researchers found that the risk of developing breast cancer over 14 years increased by 1.6 times among women with high cholesterol.

While the new study does not prove a correlation, previous research has suggested that obesity may increase one's risk of developing breast cancer. The latest research suggests that cholesterol may be a driving force behind that link, according to lead author Rahul Potluri.

"It's a starting point for looking at the relationship in human populations," says Potluri, adding that the study did not take into account whether patients smoked or engaged in other behaviors that increased their cancer risks.

"We are potentially heading towards a clinical trial in 10 to 15 years to test the effect of statins on the incidence of breast cancer," Potluri says, adding "If such a trial is successful, statins may have a role in the prevention of breast cancer, especially in high risk groups, such as women with high cholesterol."

Should all seniors take statins? New study suggests benefits for all

Clifford Hudis—chief of breast cancer medicine services at **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**—has studied how obesity affects the body's resistance to insulin and how immunity to

inflammation may be activating tumor triggers in breast tissue. Hudis says cholesterol also is a part of that relationship, although more research needs to be done into how it plays a role in certain cancers.

Hudis says the study "supports some evolving basic science," and that the "problem of obesity is going to have profound public health repercussions" (Park, [Time](#), 7/5; [The Guardian](#), 7/4).

How new cholesterol guidelines are changing statin use

- [New heart guidelines could put 12.8M more people on statins](#)
 - [Bad math? New statin calculator may be too flawed to use, experts say](#)
 - [Doctors startled by new cholesterol drug guidelines](#)
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