

# Hospital risk-adjusted margin positivity rate is quality metric

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(HealthDay)—Hospital risk-adjusted margin positivity rate (RAMP) can identify performance-based outliers and represents a rectal cancer surgery quality metric, according to a study published online Aug. 4 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Nader N. Massarweh, M.D., from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and colleagues conducted an observational cohort study of 32,354 patients with [rectal cancer](#) within the National Cancer Data Base (2003 to 2005), treated at 1,349 hospitals. Using standard observed-to-expected methodology, hospital performance was classified as low outlier (better than expected), high outlier (worse than expected), or non-RAMP outlier.

The researchers observed significant correlations for various structural (academic status and volume), process (pathologic nodal evaluation and

neoadjuvant radiation therapy use), and outcome (sphincter preservation, readmission, and 30-day postoperative mortality) measures with outlier status. Low outliers had better five-year overall survival than high outliers and nonoutliers (79.9 versus 64.9 and 68.9 percent, respectively; P

"Hospital RAMP outlier status is a rectal cancer surgery composite metric that reliably captures hospital quality across all levels of care and could be integrated into existing quality improvement initiatives for [hospital performance](#)," the authors write.

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