

Lack of training linked to cancer patient caregiver burden

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"As the number of cancer patients and caregivers increases, understanding how best to reduce the [caregiver](#) burden is necessary. Skills training is a potential area for interventions, but research on how best to provide [training](#) for caregivers (i.e., the content, mode of delivery, and timing) is needed," the authors write.

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(HealthDay)—For caregivers providing care to cancer patients, lack of training is associated with increasing burden, according to a study published online July 20 in *Cancer*.

Michelle A. Mollica, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., from the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., and colleagues administered a questionnaire to caregivers identified by [cancer patients](#) in the Cancer Care Outcomes Research and Surveillance consortium to assess the care they provided, type of medical/nursing skills training received, burden, and confidence in caring for their patient's physical needs.

The researchers found that 59 percent of the 641 caregivers who performed some type of medical/nursing task reported that they did not receive training for all the care provided. Caregivers reported a moderate level of burden; lack of receiving training correlated with increased levels of burden. The correlation between training and burden was partially mediated by confidence.

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