Relationship between Industry Funding and Laryngologists

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INTRODUCTION

- Financial relationships between physicians and industry are common and may influence clinical practice and research.[1]
- Industry payments include food and beverage, consulting fees, honoraria, travel, and other forms of compensation.[2]
- The CMS Open Payments program provides transparency regarding financial relationships between industry and physicians.[3]
- Prior analyses of CMS Open payments have demonstrated substantial industry involvement among otolaryngologists.[4]
- Industry payments patterns within laryngology have not been fully described.
- **The objective of this study was to characterize the prevalence, type, and recipient demographics of industry payments to laryngologists.**

METHODS

- A cross-sectional analysis of payments to laryngologists in 2023 and 2024 was conducted using the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Open Payments Database
- Payments were categorized as food and beverage versus non-food and beverage (consulting fees, travel and lodging, honoraria, etc.).
- Demographic data including gender, age, board certification year, and region were collected for each recipient using publicly available sources, including institutional profiles, American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery certification site, and physician directories
- Descriptive analysis was performed to determine the frequency and proportion of laryngologists receiving industry payments and to characterize payment types and recipient demographics

RESULTS

Gender	% (n), total n = 38
Male	68.4 (26)
Female	31.6 (12)
Age	
30-39	26.3 (10)
40-49	39.5 (15)
50-59	13.2 (5)
60-69	2.6 (1)
Unknown	18.4 (7)
Year of board certification	
1980-1989	2.6 (1)
1990-1999	0 (0)
2000-2009	7.9 (3)
2010-2019	39.5 (15)
2020-2024	18.4 (7)
Unknown	31.6 (12)
CMS regions	
1 (VT, NH, ME, MA, RI, CT)	2.6 (1)
2 (NY, NJ)	13.2 (5)
3 (PA, WV, VA, DE, MD, DC)	5.3 (2)
4 (KY, TN, NC, MS, AL, GA, SC, FL)	18.4 (7)
5 (MN, WI, MI, IL, IN, OH)	7.9 (3)
6 (NM, OK, AR, LA, TX)	7.9 (3)
7 (NE, IA, KS, MO)	2.6 (1)
8 (MT, ND, SD, WY, UT, CO)	7.9 (3)
9 (CA, NV, AZ, HI)	34.2 (13)
10 (WA, OR, ID, AK)	0 (0)

Table 1. Demographics of laryngologists. Majority are male, mid-career, and located in region 9.

Gender		Laryngologists	Total amount for payments	Mean per laryngologist	Median per laryngologist
Male		68.4 (26)	$5,814.75	$223.64	$63.17
Female		31.6 (12)	$5,643.84	$470.32	$122.76

Table 2. Total, mean, and median dollar amount by gender for all payments types. The total amount of payments were similar between male and females, with females having higher mean and medians payments.

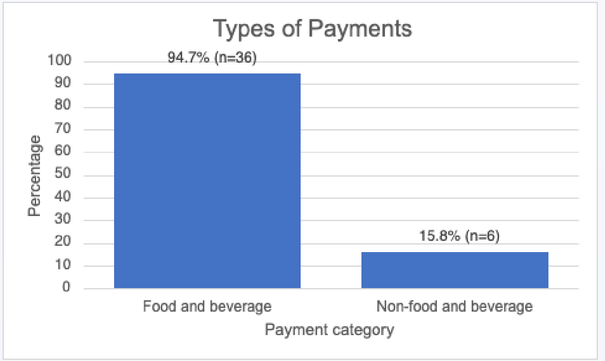


Figure 1. Types of payments. Majority of payments were food and beverage

Payment type	Gender	Age	Board Certification Year	CMS regions
Consulting fee (n=4)	3 M, 1 F	40-49 = 1 50-59 = 1	2000 - 2009 = 2 2010-2019 = 1	Regions 1, 4, 6, 9
Travel and Lodging (n=2)	1 M, 1F	40-49 = 2	2010-2019 = 2	Regions 5, 9
Honoraria (n=1)	1 M	40-49 = 1	2010-2019 = 1	Region 9

Table 3. Demographics for non-food and beverage payments. Majority of recipients were male, mid career with board certification in 2010 - 2019 and located in region 9.

Types of non-food and beverage payment	Total Amount	Mean per laryngologist	Median per laryngologist
Consulting fee (n=4)	$4,485.95	$1,121.49	$712.98
Travel and Lodging (n=2)	$991.86	$495.93	$495.93
Honoraria (n=1)	$2,250	$2,250	$2,250

Table 4. Total, mean, and media dollar amount for non-food and beverage payments. Consulting fees had the highest total amount, while honoraria has the highest individual payment.

CONCLUSIONS

- Our study found that 38 laryngologists received industry payments in 2023-2024.
- Food and beverage represented the most frequent payment category (94.7%). This finding is consistent with previous analysis of CMS open payments to otolaryngologists.[5]
- Although non-food and beverage payments were fewer, consulting fees represented the largest non-food and beverage payment category. A previous study demonstrated that consulting fees accounted for a disproportionate share of total industry payment value despite having fewer individual transactions.[4]
- Total payments were similar between male and female laryngologists; however, female laryngologists had higher mean and median payments per laryngologist. A previous study showed that male otolaryngologists had received greater total payments and median payments per physician compared to female otolaryngologists.[6]
- Compared with subspecialities like rhinology or otology, where substantial industry payments are more common, laryngology showed relatively limited non-food industry involvement.[4]
- These findings provide a baseline characterization of industry payments in laryngology and may help inform future evaluations of financial relationships within the subspecialty.
- Limitations include small sample size, reliance on publicly and incomplete available sources for recipient demographics, and reliance on the accuracy of the CMS Open Payments database.
- Further research is needed to characterize trends in industry relationships within laryngology and their potential implications for clinical practice and research.

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