

HBV infection decreases risk of liver metastasis in colorectal cancer patients

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A research team from China evaluated the effect of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection on liver metastasis of colorectal cancer. The study showed that HBV infection decreases the risk of liver metastasis in patients with colorectal cancer and elevates the surgical resection rate of liver metastatic lesions.

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Western countries. Metastatic liver disease more frequently develops metachronous metastasis following treatment of CRC. It was reported that [hepatitis B virus \(HBV\)](#) infection finally reduces the risk of intrahepatic metastasis in hepatocellular [carcinoma \(HCC\)](#) patients with a higher survival rate and therefore can be considered an important prognostic factor for HCC patients. Rare reports are available on the relation between HBV infection and hepatic metastasis of CRC.

A research article to be published on February 14, 2011 in the [World Journal of Gastroenterology](#) addresses this question. The authors designed a cohort study to observe the relation between HBV infection and liver metastasis of CRC.

The results showed a decrease in the percentage of metastases in the [Hepatitis B virus](#) infected group (14.2%) with respect to the control group (28.2%). In contrast, the number of patients that developed extrahepatic metastases was significantly higher than the control group, without any significant difference in the overall survival rate. Finally, the authors suggested that HBV infection in colorectal cancer patients could

be used as a prognostic factor in terms of hepatic metastasis formation.

More information: Qiu HB, Zhang LY, Zeng ZL, Wang ZQ, Luo HY, Keshari RP, Zhou ZW, Xu RH. HBV infection decreases risk of liver metastasis in patients with colorectal cancer: A cohort study. World J Gastroenterol 2011; 17(6): 804-808
www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v17/i6/804.htm

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