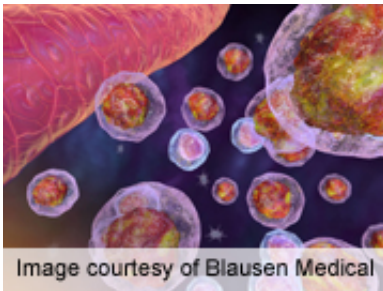


Treatment beneficial in smoldering multiple myeloma

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For patients with smoldering multiple myeloma, treatment with lenalidomide plus dexamethasone correlates with delayed progression and improved survival, according to a study published in the Aug. 1 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

(HealthDay)—For patients with smoldering multiple myeloma, treatment with lenalidomide plus dexamethasone correlates with delayed progression and improved survival, according to a study published in the Aug. 1 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

María-Victoria Mateos, M.D., Ph.D., from the Hospital Universitario de Salamanca in Spain, and colleagues conducted an open-label, phase 3 trial in which 119 patients with high-risk smoldering myeloma were randomized to treatment or observation. Treatment included an induction regimen (nine cycles of [lenalidomide](#) plus dexamethasone) followed by maintenance lenalidomide for two years.

After a median follow-up of 40 months, the researchers found that the median time to progression was significantly longer in the treatment group (median not reached) versus the observation group (21 months; hazard ratio for progression, 0.18). The treatment group also had a significantly higher three-year survival rate (94 versus 80 percent; hazard ratio for death, 0.31). In the treatment group, a partial response or better was achieved by 79 percent of patients after the induction phase and by 90 percent during the maintenance phase.

"In conclusion, this randomized, phase 3 trial showed that early treatment with lenalidomide and dexamethasone, followed by maintenance therapy with lenalidomide, in patients with high-risk smoldering multiple myeloma significantly delayed the time to progression to symptomatic disease and resulted in an overall [survival benefit](#)," the authors write.

The study was funded by Celgene, the manufacturer of lenalidomide.

More information: [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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