

FOLFOXIRI plus bevacizumab ups outcome in metastatic CRC

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(HealthDay)—For patients with untreated metastatic colorectal cancer, chemotherapy with fluorouracil, leucovorin, oxaliplatin, and irinotecan (FOLFOXIRI) plus bevacizumab improves outcome versus fluorouracil, leucovorin, and irinotecan (FOLFIRI) plus bevacizumab, according to a study published in the Oct. 23 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Fotios Loupakis, M.D., Ph.D., from the Università di Pisa in Italy, and colleagues randomized 508 [patients](#) with untreated [metastatic colorectal cancer](#) to receive FOLFIRI plus [bevacizumab](#) (control group) or FOLFOXIRI plus bevacizumab (experimental group). Up to 12 cycles were administered, and fluorouracil plus bevacizumab was continued until disease progression.

The researchers found that the median progression-free survival was 12.1 and 9.7 months in the experimental and control groups, respectively (hazard ratio for progression, 0.75; $P = 0.003$). In the experimental and control groups, the objective response rate was 65 and 53 percent, respectively ($P = 0.006$). The experimental group had a trend toward longer overall survival (31.0 versus 25.8 months; hazard ratio for death, 0.79; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.63 to 1.00; $P = 0.054$). The experimental group had significantly higher incidences of grade 3 and 4 neurotoxicity, stomatitis, diarrhea, and neutropenia.

"FOLFOXIRI plus bevacizumab, as compared with FOLFIRI plus bevacizumab, improved the outcome in patients with metastatic colorectal [cancer](#) and increased the incidence of some adverse events," the authors write.

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