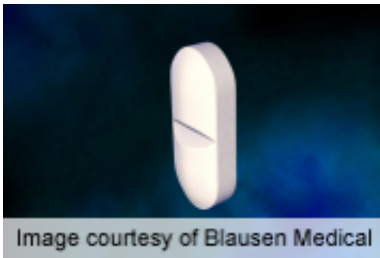


# Increased toxicity for many newly approved anticancer drugs

October 1 2014

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(HealthDay)—Newly approved anticancer drugs that do not have a specific molecular target on cancer cells are associated with increased toxicity and the accompanying costs of management, according to research published online Sept. 29 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Saroj Niraula, M.B.B.S., M.D., from CancerCare Manitoba and the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada, and colleagues examined the incidence of 12 frequent grade 3 and 4 adverse events associated with new [anticancer drugs](#), and the costs associated with their management. Data were included from 41 studies involving 27,539 patients and assessing 19 experimental drugs.

The researchers found that the incidence of grade 3 and 4 toxicities was lower for agents directed against a specific molecular target on [cancer cells](#) than controls (median risk ratio [RR], 0.67; P = 0.22), while less-

specific targeted agents were more toxic (angiogenesis inhibitors: median RR, 3.39; P

"Development of biomarker-driven agents should be encouraged," the authors write.

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

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Citation: Increased toxicity for many newly approved anticancer drugs (2014, October 1)  
retrieved 22 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-10-toxicity-newly-anticancer-drugs.html>

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