

# Diagnostic criteria developed for cancer-linked weight loss

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(HealthDay)—A grading system has been developed for clinically important weight loss (WL) in patients with cancer, which includes the independent prognostic significance of body mass index (BMI) and percent WL, according to research published online Nov. 24 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Lisa Martin, R.D., from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, and colleagues used data from 8,160 Canadian and European patients with cancer to produce definitions of clinically important WL. A grading system was developed using the relationships between BMI and percent WL with overall survival.

The researchers found that both BMI and percent WL independently

predicted survival (P

"We systematically developed a cancer WL grading system that incorporates the two dimensions of percent WL and BMI and links them to survival," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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