

# Ovary removal may increase the risk of colorectal cancer

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Colorectal cancer may rise in women who have their ovaries removed, according to new research.

The development of [colorectal cancer](#) is influenced by hormonal factors, and removal of the ovaries alters a woman's sex hormone levels. Among 195,973 Swedish women who had undergone ovary removal between 1965 and 2011, there was a 30% increase in the rate of colorectal cancer compared with the general population. After accounting for various factors, women who had both ovaries removed had a 2.3-times higher risk of rectal cancer than those who had only one ovary removed.

"Colorectal [cancer](#) risk was increased after oophorectomy in both pre- and postmenopausal women. This emphasizes that prophylactic resection of normal ovaries should be reserved for [women](#) with a clear indication," said Dr. Josefin Segelman, lead author of the *British Journal of Surgery* study.

**More information:** J. Segelman et al, Population-based analysis of colorectal cancer risk after oophorectomy, *British Journal of Surgery* (2016). [DOI: 10.1002/bjs.10143](https://doi.org/10.1002/bjs.10143)

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