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# Obesity ups risk for secondary primary cancers in men

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(HealthDay)—Obesity before a cancer diagnosis is associated with an

increased risk for overall and individual secondary primary cancers (SPCs) in males, according to a study published online Oct. 10 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Sang Min Park, M.D., Ph.D., from the Seoul National University College of Medicine in South Korea, and colleagues assessed the effects of obesity before the diagnosis of a first cancer on the development of secondary primary cancers in 239,615 Korean male cancer survivors (January 2003 through December 2010).

The researchers found that over 1,614,583 person-years of follow-up, 4,799 patients had SPCs. Among cancer survivors, the age-standardized incidence rate of cancer was 1.1 times higher than that of the general population. Prediagnosis body mass index (BMI) and risk of all-combined, colorectal, liver, lymphoma, biliary tract, kidney, and obesity-related SPCs had positive linear trends. The adjusted hazard ratios for SPCs among severely obese (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m$^2$) cancer survivors were significantly higher than those for first cancers among all cohort participants (1.41 versus 1.12).

"Prediagnosis obesity is a risk factor for overall and individual SPCs, and the strength of the BMI-cancer association is slightly stronger in male cancer survivors than in the general population," the authors write.

**More information:** Abstract
Full Text (subscription or payment may be required)