

# Not all 80-, 90-year-olds with rectal cancer are treated

August 4 2017

---



(HealthDay)—About 15 percent of octogenarians and nonagenarians

with stage II/III rectal adenocarcinoma do not receive treatment, according to a study published online July 31 in *Cancer*.

Richard J. Cassidy, M.D., from the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University in Atlanta, and colleagues examined the impact of therapies on overall survival for 2,723 patients with stage II/III rectal adenocarcinoma, and identified predictors of [therapy](#) using data from the National Cancer Data Base.

Overall, 14.9, 29.7, 5.0, 45.3, and 5.1 percent of patients received no treatment, [surgery](#) alone, short-course radiation then surgery (RT + S), chemoradiation and surgery (CRT + S), and surgery then chemoradiation (S + CRT), respectively. The researchers observed correlations for African-American [race](#) and residence in a less educated county with not receiving treatment. Worse overall survival was seen in association with male sex, older age, worsening comorbidities, and receiving no [treatment](#) or undergoing surgery alone. No statistical difference was seen in overall survival between RT + S, S + CRT, and CRT + S. CRT + S improved overall survival in interaction testing, independently of age, comorbidity status, sex, race, and tumor stage. CRT + S correlated with improved overall survival in comparison with surgery alone in the propensity score-matched analysis.

"African-American race and living in a less educated community are associated with not receiving therapy," the authors write.

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

Copyright © 2017 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Not all 80-, 90-year-olds with rectal cancer are treated (2017, August 4) retrieved 16

May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-08-year-olds-rectal-cancer.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.