

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

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(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](#)  
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