

ASCO: liquid biopsy accurate for detecting colorectal cancer

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(HealthDay)—Liquid biopsy that identifies circulating tumor cells in a

blood sample has high accuracy for detecting colorectal cancer (CRC), according to a study presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's annual Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium, held from Jan. 18 to 20 in San Francisco.

Wen-Sy Tsai, M.D., from Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taipei, Taiwan, and colleagues conducted a prospective study to assess a novel assay for detecting and enumerating circulating [tumor cells](#) in a [blood sample](#) for early CRC detection. The study was conducted among 438 subjects with adenoma, polyps, or stage I to IV CRC and 182 controls. For each subject, 2 mL of peripheral whole blood was collected through a routine blood draw and processed using the CellMax biomimetic platform (CMx). Disease status was evaluated by a standard clinical protocol, including colonoscopy and biopsy results.

The researchers found that the overall accuracy for the CMx test was 88 percent for all stages of colorectal illness, including [precancerous lesions](#). The sensitivity and specificity were 84 and 97.3, respectively, overall (76.6 and 97.3 for precancerous lesions).

"There is still some reticence among patients to use stool-based tests or have an invasive exam like colonoscopy to detect [colorectal cancer](#)," Tsai said in a statement. "Our results may point to a solution for people who are reluctant to get an initial screening colonoscopy or are not compliant in returning stool-based test kits that they get from their doctors."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to CellMax Life.

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