

Cabozantinib improves survival in advanced hepatocellular cancer

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(HealthDay)—Cabozantinib results in significantly longer overall and

progression-free survival than placebo among patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma, according to a study published in the July 5 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Ghassan K. Abou-Alfa, M.D., from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, and colleagues randomized 707 patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma in a 2-to-1 ratio to receive cabozantinib or matching placebo. Participants had received previous treatment with sorafenib and had disease progression after one or more systemic treatments for hepatocellular carcinoma.

The trial showed significantly longer overall survival with cabozantinib than placebo at the second planned interim analysis. The researchers found that the median overall survival was 10.2 and 8.0 months with cabozantinib and placebo, respectively (hazard ratio for death, 0.76). Median progression-free survival was 5.2 and 1.9 months with cabozantinib and placebo, respectively (hazard ratio for [disease progression](#) or death, 0.44); the objective response rates were 4 and

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