

# Statins linked to lower risk of early death in patients with colorectal cancer

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Cancer—Histopathologic image of colonic carcinoid. Credit: Wikipedia/CC BY-SA 3.0

Use of statins before or after a diagnosis of colorectal cancer was linked with a lower risk of premature death, both from cancer and from other causes, in a *Cancer Medicine* analysis of published studies.

The meta-analysis included 14 studies involving 130,994 patients with colorectal [cancer](#). Pre-diagnosis statin use was linked with a 15 percent lower risk of dying early from any cause and an 18 percent lower risk of dying from cancer. Post-diagnosis statin use was linked with a 14 percent lower risk of all-cause death and a 21 percent lower risk of cancer-specific death.

"Considering that statins are low-costed and widely-used [agents](#) worldwide, we believe our updated meta-analysis can provide new insights into optimizing adjuvant treatment of [colorectal cancer](#)," the authors wrote.

**More information:** Yue Li et al, Statin uses and mortality in colorectal cancer patients: An updated systematic review and meta-analysis, *Cancer Medicine* (2019). [DOI: 10.1002/cam4.2151](https://doi.org/10.1002/cam4.2151)

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