

High BMI may cut overall survival in HER2+, metastatic breast cancer

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(HealthDay)—For patients with human epidermal growth factor receptor

2-positive (HER2+) metastatic breast cancer (mBC) treated with pertuzumab and/or trastuzumab emtansine (T-DM1), a body mass index (BMI) of ≥ 30 kg/m² is associated with worse overall survival but does not affect progression-free survival to first-line chemotherapy (PFS1), according to a study published online Jan. 15 in the *Journal of Cellular Physiology*.

Eriseld Krasniqi, M.D., from the IRCCS Regina Elena National Cancer Institute in Rome, and colleagues examined the influence of BMI on clinical outcomes of 709 patients with HER2+ mBC treated with pertuzumab and/or T-DM1. The influence of BMI was further analyzed among 575 women who progressed to first-line chemotherapy.

The researchers found that BMI had no impact on PFS1 overall, while BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² was associated with significantly worse overall survival. BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² had a [detrimental effect](#) on overall survival for the women within PFS1 quartile I (PFS1 no more than six months) in a univariate analysis. In a multivariable analysis, the results were confirmed. According to PFS1 quartiles, within six months of therapy, a higher percentage of patients with high BMI and low disease burden progressed.

"In this particularly challenging battlefield, namely, in the HER2+ [metastatic breast cancer](#), a well-depicted patient profile, including details on body mass index and its prognostic relevance, can help inform therapeutic decisions," Krasniqi said in a statement.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

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

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