

# Low muscle mass, density linked to shorter survival in DLBCL

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(HealthDay)—For patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

(DLBCL), the combination of low muscle mass (LMM) and low muscle density (LMD) is an independent prognostic factor for survival, according to a study published in the July issue of *Leukemia & Lymphoma*.

Hánah N. Rier, M.D., from Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Dordrecht, Netherlands, and colleagues examined the association of LMM and LMD with survival in 164 patients with DLBCL. Computed tomography-based measurement of [muscle](#) was performed before chemoimmunotherapy. Z-scores adjusted for gender, age, and body mass index were derived from a healthy reference population; a Z-score less than -1 was used to define LMM or LMD.

The researchers found that LMM and LMD were associated with overall survival (OS) and [progression-free survival](#) (PFS). In 13 percent of patients, there was coexistence of both LMM and LMD, which was significantly associated with shorter OS and PFS (multivariable hazard ratios, 2.42 and 2.16, respectively). These [patients](#) did not complete the planned treatment more often (multivariable odds ratio, 2.84).

"The presence of LMM and LMD was not related to preexisting comorbidities or unfavorable [lymphoma](#) characteristics, indicating that the combination of LMM and LMD is a lymphoma-independent risk factor for shorter survival, possibly because it more often results in premature termination of chemotherapy," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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