

New findings on type 2 diabetes and colorectal cancer survival rates

March 16 2018, by Nana Ohkawa

Researchers from the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center and Office of Public Health Studies found that patients who have type 2 diabetes in addition to other chronic diseases have a lower survival rate for colorectal cancer.

A study published in the *International Journal of Cancer* investigated the survival rates of colorectal [cancer patients](#) with or without type 2 diabetes, and with additional diseases such as heart disease or stroke. The findings showed type 2 diabetes alone does not significantly affect survival for colorectal cancer patients. However, patients with type 2 diabetes as well as other [chronic diseases](#) had a lower survival rate.

The researchers looked at 24 years of health data of more than 215,000 adults from California and Hawai'i who participated in the multiethnic cohort to identify predictors of survival. Among 3,913 new cases of colorectal cancer, the 707 participants with type 2 diabetes were compared to those without type 2 diabetes.

"The multiethnic cohort is an excellent resource that allows us to study diseases in diverse ethnic groups," said Yvette Amshoff, lead author and education coordinator at the UH Cancer Center. "Relationships between type 2 diabetes and colorectal cancer have been studied before, with most studies finding a lower chance of survival of those with both diseases. However, in our study population of Caucasian, African American, Native Hawaiian, Latino and Japanese, only Latinos with a history of type 2 diabetes had worse survival. This shows a possible

disparity in healthcare that should be addressed."

Added Andrew Grandinetti, study co-author and associate professor of epidemiology in the Office of Public Health Studies, "The findings that participants with additional diseases and possibly those with long-term type 2 diabetes experience higher mortality are significant to policymakers and health-care providers, because they encourage screening and early detection in colorectal cancer patients to help increase life spans."

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men and third among women in Hawai'i. There is an average of 224 deaths from colorectal cancer each year in the state, with an average of more than 700 new cases diagnosed each year, according to the UH Cancer Center's Hawai'i Tumor Registry. In the U.S., [colorectal cancer](#) is the fourth most commonly diagnosed [disease](#). By 2040, 642 million people worldwide are predicted to have type 2 [diabetes](#).

Provided by University of Hawaii at Manoa

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