

High-Dose Vitamin D Doesn't Help Most Patients With Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

However, study results suggest higher doses may benefit patients with tumors on the left side of the colon or rectum.

September 17, 2024 By [Liz Highleyman](#)

Adding high-dose vitamin D to standard chemotherapy did not improve overall outcomes for people with advanced [colorectal cancer](#), though it may help a subset of patients, according to study findings presented at the [European Society for Medical Oncology Congress \(#ESMO2024\)](#) in Barcelona.

Previous studies have suggested that higher levels of vitamin D in the blood may be associated with improved survival for people with metastatic colorectal cancer. Research has also found that vitamin D [may improve outcomes for women with breast cancer](#) and [might lower the likelihood](#) of developing colorectal cancer and other malignancies in the first place.

[Kimmie Ng, MD, MPH](#), of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and colleagues conducted a Phase III clinical trial to test the hypothesis that adding high-dose vitamin D3 to standard therapy could potentially improve progression-free survival.

In the [SOLARIS \(Alliance A021703\) study](#), more than 450 patients with previously untreated metastatic colorectal cancer at several hundred U.S. cancer centers were randomly assigned to receive a high-dose or a standard dose of vitamin D in combination with standard chemotherapy and bevacizumab (Avastin).

People who received high-dose vitamin D3 did not experience additional concerning side-effects or toxicities compared with those who got the standard dose, Ng reported. But over a median 20 months of follow-up, the higher dose of vitamin D3 did not delay progression of colorectal cancer more than the standard dose.

However, the researchers did observe a potential benefit of high-dose vitamin D3 for patients with left-sided cancer, meaning primary tumors that originate in the descending colon, sigmoid colon or rectum. This association requires further investigation, they concluded.

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