

Body mass index tied to multiple myeloma survival

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Underweight and severe obesity are associated with decreased survival in

patients with multiple myeloma (MM), according to a study published online Jan. 12 in the *Blood Cancer Journal*.

Urvi A. Shah, M.D., from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, and colleagues assessed the impact of body mass index (BMI) on [progression-free survival](#) (PFS) and overall survival (OS) in patients with newly diagnosed MM. The analysis included data from 1,142 patients from the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation CoMMpass registry.

The researchers found that both patients with underweight and severe obesity had lower median PFS and OS than patients with [normal weight](#), overweight, and moderate obesity. Patients with underweight had a significantly higher risk for death in models associating PFS and OS with BMI (hazard ratio [HR], 2.32; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 1.09 to 4.97). Patients with [severe obesity](#) tended to have a higher for risk of progression (HR, 1.29; 95 percent CI, 0.99 to 1.67) and death (HR, 1.43; 95 percent CI, 0.98 to 2.08) versus patients with normal BMI. OS worsened with higher comorbidities (three-year OS for Charlson Comorbidity Index [CCI] ≥ 5 : 65 percent; CCI > 2 to

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