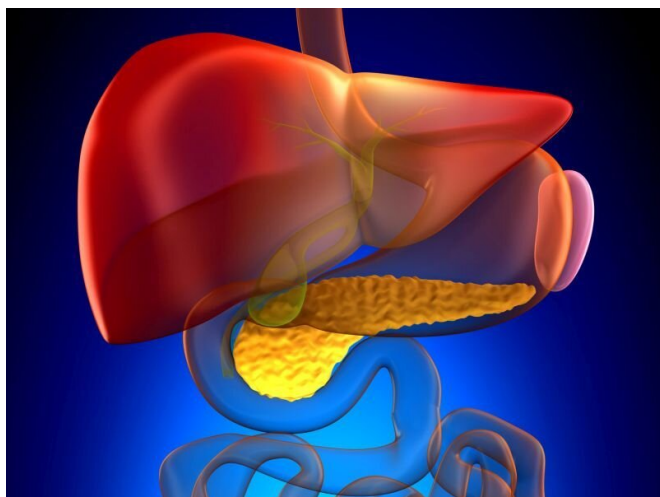


Margin-positive surgery still beneficial in pancreatic cancer

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(HealthDay)—For patients with stage II pancreatic cancer, attempted surgery with margin-positive resection may offer survival benefit over chemotherapy alone, according to a study published online March 26 in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*.

Amanda K. Arrington, M.D., from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and colleagues identified [patients](#) receiving surgery from 2010 to 2017 for stage II pancreatic cancers who had R1/R2 resection outcomes, with or without [neoadjuvant chemotherapy](#), and compared their survival to that of patients with similarly staged disease who received chemotherapy alone. Data were included for 11,699 stage II [pancreatic cancer](#) patients: 81.4, 15.7, and 2.9 percent received chemotherapy alone, upfront surgery, and neoadjuvant therapy with surgery, respectively.

The researchers found that compared with the upfront surgery group and chemotherapy alone group, R1/R2 neoadjuvant patients had the best

overall survival at a mean of 19.75 months versus 17.77 and 10.12 months, respectively (adjusted hazard ratios compared with chemotherapy alone, 0.46 for upfront surgery and 0.32 for neoadjuvant therapy). Compared with patients who underwent chemotherapy alone, survival was better in surgical patients even with R2 resection (15.76 versus 10.22 months), although the difference was not statistically significant. Although [survival rates](#) were significantly lower for R1/R2 resections than standard R0 resection, R1/R2 resection improved survival if patients received neoadjuvant/adjuvant chemotherapy.

"Even in the era of modern chemotherapy, margin positive resection, including R1 and R2 resections, still offer [survival benefit](#)," the authors write. "This is critical since, in the setting of neoadjuvant therapy, response to treatment can be difficult to determine and surgical exploration and resection is necessary to fully assess resectability."

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

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