

Ovary removal may increase the risk of colorectal cancer

May 4 2016

Colorectal cancer may rise in women who have their ovaries removed, according to new research.

The development of [colorectal cancer](#) is influenced by hormonal factors, and removal of the ovaries alters a woman's sex hormone levels. Among 195,973 Swedish women who had undergone ovary removal between 1965 and 2011, there was a 30% increase in the rate of colorectal cancer compared with the general population. After accounting for various factors, women who had both ovaries removed had a 2.3-times higher risk of rectal cancer than those who had only one ovary removed.

"Colorectal [cancer](#) risk was increased after oophorectomy in both pre- and postmenopausal women. This emphasizes that prophylactic resection of normal ovaries should be reserved for [women](#) with a clear indication," said Dr. Josefin Segelman, lead author of the *British Journal of Surgery* study.

More information: J. Segelman et al, Population-based analysis of colorectal cancer risk after oophorectomy, *British Journal of Surgery* (2016). [DOI: 10.1002/bjs.10143](https://doi.org/10.1002/bjs.10143)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Ovary removal may increase the risk of colorectal cancer (2016, May 4) retrieved 27

March 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-05-ovary-colorectal-cancer.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.