

Benefit of aggressive prostate CA Tx weakens as comorbidity rises

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(HealthDay)—For men with early-stage prostate cancer, the cancer-specific survival benefit associated with aggressive prostate cancer treatment is reduced with increasing comorbidity, according to a study published online May 13 in *Cancer*.

Timothy J. Daskivich, M.D., from the University of California in Los Angeles, and colleagues compared the effectiveness of aggressive versus nonaggressive treatment for reducing cancer-specific [mortality](#) in a cohort of 140,553 men aged ≥ 66 years with early-stage [prostate cancer](#). Data for participants, diagnosed between 1991 and 2007, were extracted from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results-Medicare database.

The researchers found that, among men with Charlson scores of 0, 1, and 2, but not among those with scores of ≥ 3 , aggressive treatment correlated with a reduced risk of cancer-specific mortality (subhazard ratio for Charlson score ≥ 3 , 0.85; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.62 to 1.18) in propensity-adjusted competing-risks regression analysis. For men with Charlson scores of 0, 1, 2, and ≥ 3 , the absolute reduction in 15-year cancer-specific mortality between men who received aggressive versus nonaggressive treatment was 6.1, 4.3, 3.9, and 0.9 percent, respectively.

Aggressive treatment correlated with a lower risk of cancer-specific mortality among men who had well-differentiated and moderately-differentiated tumors with Charlson scores of 0, 1, and 2, but not ≥ 3 (subhazard ratio for Charlson score ≥ 3 , 1.14; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.70 to 1.89). When considering only well- and moderately-differentiated tumors, the absolute reduction in 15-year cancer-specific mortality was 3.8, 3.0, 1.9, and ≥ 0.5 percent for men with Charlson scores of 0, 1, 2, and ≥ 3 , respectively.

"The cancer-specific [survival benefit](#) from [aggressive treatment](#) for early-stage prostate cancer diminishes with increasing comorbidity at diagnosis," the authors write.

One author is a cofounder of Wiser Care.

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