

Soluble interleukin-2 receptors in patients with advanced colorectal carcinoma.

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Source

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Abstract

The levels of soluble interleukin-2 receptors (sIL-2R) were measured in the serum of 52 patients with advanced colorectal carcinoma and compared to CEA and CA 19-9 levels. Twenty-five normal, age and sex-matched individuals served as controls. Seventy-five per cent of the patients had increased mean serum levels of sIL-2R (1539 +/- 155 U/ml), while normal controls had mean levels of 555 +/- 31 U/ml ($p < 0.001$). The relationship with hepatic or lymph nodal metastases showed no statistically significant difference ($p = 0.34$ and $p = 0.47$, respectively). Serum sIL-2R levels showed a linear correlation with CEA ($p < 0.05$). Patients with lower pretreatment sIL-2R levels (less than 1.200 U/ml) had a longer survival than patients with higher initial levels (more than 1.200 U/ml) ($p = 0.0049$). In conclusion, the present work shows that the serum levels of sIL-2R: a) are elevated in patients with advanced colorectal cancer, b) have no relationship with the type of metastases, c) correlate with serum CEA and d) have a prognostic value for survival.