

## **Serum levels of bcl-2 in patients with colorectal cancer.**

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### **Source**

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### **Abstract**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Many recent studies focus on the immunohistochemical evaluation of Bcl-2 expression, and its prognostic significance in colorectal cancer (CRC). Our aim was to investigate the presence of bcl-2 protein in the serum and to examine the association between its levels, stage and tumour load, in patients with CRC.

#### **METHODS:**

A commercially available ELISA was used for the estimation of bcl-2 levels, in 94 patients with different stages of CRC. Forty-eight healthy blood donors served as controls. Concentrations ranging 2SD above and below the controls median were accepted as "normal".

#### **RESULTS:**

bcl-2 was detected in the serum of patients with CRC. A significantly higher proportion of patients with non-metastatic disease (61%), had high serum bcl-2 values, compared to patients with metastatic disease (28%,  $p < 0.0001$ ).

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

Serum bcl-2 in patients with CRC may reflect the degree of Bcl-2 expression in cancer tissue. Serum bcl-2 is easily determinable, and could be useful as a prognostic marker in CRC.