

**Serum concentrations of soluble ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 in patients with colorectal cancer.  
Clinical implications.**

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**Source**

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**Abstract**

**BACKGROUND:**

In colorectal cancer (CRC), serum levels of adhesion molecules ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 increase with progressing disease. Our aim was to investigate the effect of treatment in serum ICAM-1 and VCAM-1.

**METHODS:**

Serum levels of ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 were determined in 154 patients with CRC. Patients with non-metastatic disease had been treated with "curative" resections, and those with advanced disease were receiving chemotherapy. A group of 48 healthy blood donors served as control. Serum concentrations ranging 2SD above and below the controls median were accepted as "normal".

**RESULTS:**

Significantly more patients with advanced disease demonstrated high serum ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 ( $p < 0.001$ ,  $p = 0.043$  respectively). However, in some of them serum ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 were below "normal".

**CONCLUSIONS:**

Serum ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 may be valuable markers of residual or biologically aggressive disease after curative resections. In advanced disease, they could be useful predictors of response to chemotherapy.