

How far along are we in revealing the connection between metformin and colorectal cancer?

Cigrovski Berković, Maja; Mikulić, Danko; Bilić-Ćurčić, Ines; Mrzljak, Anna

Source / Izvornik: **World Journal of Gastroenterology, 2021, 27, 1362 - 1368**

Journal article, Published version

Rad u časopisu, Objavljena verzija rada (izdavačev PDF)

<https://doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v27.i14.1362>

Permanent link / Trajna poveznica: <https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:105:547932>

Rights / Prava: [Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International/Imenovanje-Nekomercijalno 4.0 međunarodna](#)

Download date / Datum preuzimanja: **2025-01-08**



Repository / Repozitorij:

[Dr Med - University of Zagreb School of Medicine Digital Repository](#)



How far along are we in revealing the connection between metformin and colorectal cancer?

Maja Cigrovski Berkovic, Danko Mikulic, Ines Bilic-Curcic, Anna Mrzljak

ORCID number: Maja Cigrovski Berkovic [0000-0003-0750-9785](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0750-9785); Danko Mikulic [0000-0001-8103-6045](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8103-6045); Ines Bilic-Curcic [0000-0002-8861-5987](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8861-5987); Anna Mrzljak [0000-0001-6270-2305](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6270-2305).

Author contributions: Cigrovski Berkovic M made contributions to the conception and design of the study and drafted and revised the manuscript critically; Mikulic D, Bilic-Curcic I, and Mrzljak A were involved in collecting data and drafting and writing the manuscript; all authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflict-of-interest statement: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Open-Access: This article is an open-access article that was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Maja Cigrovski Berkovic, Department of Kinesiological Anthropology and Methodology, Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Zagreb, Zagreb 10000, Croatia

Maja Cigrovski Berkovic, Clinical Hospital Dubrava, Zagreb 10000, Croatia

Danko Mikulic, Department of Surgery, Merkur University Hospital, Zagreb 10000, Croatia

Ines Bilic-Curcic, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of J. J. Strossmayer Osijek, Osijek 31000, Croatia

Ines Bilic-Curcic, Clinical Hospital Center Osijek, Osijek 31000, Croatia

Anna Mrzljak, Department of Medicine, Merkur University Hospital, School of Medicine, Zagreb 10000, Croatia

Corresponding author: Anna Mrzljak, MD, PhD, FEBGH, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Merkur University Hospital, School of Medicine, Zajčeva 19, Zagreb 10000, Croatia. anna.mrzljak@gmail.com

Abstract

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is among the most prevalent cancers worldwide, and its prevention and reduction of incidence is imperative. The presence of diabetes has been associated with a 30% increased risk of CRC, likely through the mechanism of hyperinsulinemia, which promotes tumorigenesis *via* the insulin receptor in the epithelium or by insulin-like growth factor pathways, inflammation, or adipokines, inducing cancer cell proliferation and cancer spread. Metformin, the first-line agent in treating type 2 diabetes, has a chemopreventive role in CRC development. Additionally, preclinical studies suggest synergistic effects of metformin with oxaliplatin in inhibiting *in vitro* models of colon cancer. Although preclinical studies on the post diagnostic use of metformin were promising and suggested its synergistic effects with chemotherapy, the data on the possible effects of metformin after surgery and other CRC treatment in the clinical setting are less conclusive, and randomized controlled trials are still lacking.

Key Words: Metformin; Type 2 diabetes mellitus; Colorectal cancer; Chemoprevention; Recurrence-free survival; Surgery

©The Author(s) 2021. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

Manuscript source: Invited manuscript

Specialty type: Gastroenterology and hepatology

Country/Territory of origin: Croatia

Peer-review report's scientific quality classification

Grade A (Excellent): 0
Grade B (Very good): B
Grade C (Good): C
Grade D (Fair): 0
Grade E (Poor): 0

Received: December 23, 2020

Peer-review started: December 24, 2020

First decision: February 11, 2021

Revised: February 14, 2021

Accepted: March 17, 2021

Article in press: March 17, 2021

Published online: April 14, 2021

P-Reviewer: Chan DKH, Matowicka-Karna J

S-Editor: Fan JR

L-Editor: A

P-Editor: Liu JH



Core Tip: Metformin is one of the oldest oral antidiabetic agents used to treat type 2 diabetes mellitus. While there is substantial evidence that metformin may have a chemopreventive role in colorectal cancer (CRC) development, the data on the possible effects of metformin after surgery and other CRC treatment is much less conclusive.

Citation: Berkovic MC, Mikulic D, Bilic-Curcic I, Mrzljak A. How far along are we in revealing the connection between metformin and colorectal cancer? *World J Gastroenterol* 2021; 27(14): 1362-1368

URL: <https://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v27/i14/1362.htm>

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v27.i14.1362>

INTRODUCTION

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is one of the most prevalent cancers worldwide, irrespective of gender. Factors contributing to the risk of development of CRC include lifestyle, genetics, and chronic diseases such as diabetes mellitus and obesity^[1-3]. Although patient survival has increased over the years due to more effective treatments, there is still a problem with adverse effects and therapy costs. The prevention and reduction of CRC incidence is imperative. Several agents with chemopreventive effects have emerged. Cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors offered the most promising results in CRC prevention, but their use was associated with elevated cardiovascular risk. Considering that CRC patients often have diabetes mellitus and obesity, which also confers cardiovascular risk, novel targets for CRC chemoprevention are needed. Accumulating data indicates that metformin, the first-line treatment for type 2 diabetes mellitus, may be a candidate chemoprevention agent for cancer, including CRC.

METFORMIN-CLINICAL USE AND MODE OF ACTION

Metformin is one of the oldest oral antidiabetic agents used to treat type 2 diabetes mellitus alone or in combination with other oral or injectable agents. It lowers blood glucose levels by reducing hepatic glucose production, stimulating glucose uptake by peripheral tissues (muscle and fat), and lowering intestinal glucose absorption^[4]. The presence of diabetes has been associated with a 30% increased risk of CRC. This potentially occurs through the mechanism of hyperinsulinemia accompanying insulin resistance, which promotes tumorigenesis *via* action on the insulin receptor in the epithelium or by influencing insulin-like growth factor pathways, inflammation, or adipokines inducing cancer cell proliferation and metastasis^[5-7]. Therefore, metformin might provide preventive effects by reducing insulin resistance and lowering hyperinsulinemia^[8] (Figure 1). Additionally, the use of metformin in various cancer models provided anticarcinogenic action by inhibiting angiogenesis or through antimetabolic and radio-chemosensitizer effects^[9]. This is mediated by the synergistic regulation of metformin on adenosine monophosphate-activated protein kinase (AMPK), glycogen synthase kinase-3 β , and proliferator-activated receptor- γ as observed in the case of pancreatic cancer^[10].

The mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR) pathway, with complex multiple feedback loops, plays a central role in coordinating cell growth and proliferation in CRC carcinogenesis. Different mTOR inhibitors have been extensively studied for preventing and/or treating CRC, but no single agent has shown a significant therapeutic efficacy towards CRC potentially because many of the genetic pathways involved in CRC development lie upstream of mTOR and elicit the oncogenic effect through the mTOR signaling pathway^[11]. According to the contemporary understanding, the mTOR pathway is continuously activated by various hormones, inflammation, and energy-related factors such as glucose, insulin, and insulin-like growth factor 1. The hypothesis to combine inhibition of these pathways seems promising in providing more effective tumor suppression^[12]. Metformin inhibits mitochondrial mammalian respiratory chain complex I followed by activation of liver kinase B1 and downstream target AMPK that results in an inhibition of mTOR activity^[13,14]. Metformin also exerts its metabolic effects by improving insulin resistance, hyperinsulinemia, and glycaemia. Metformin has apoptotic effects on cancer

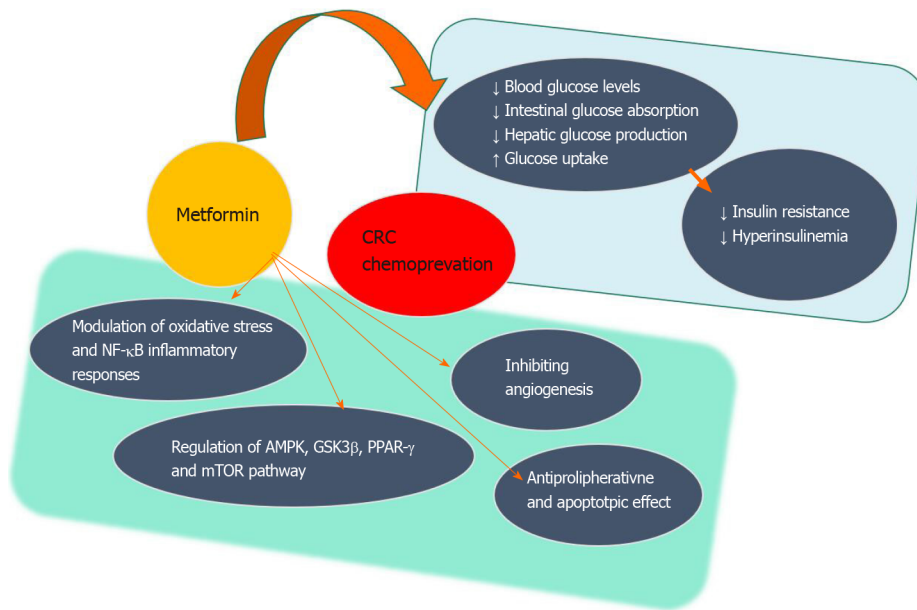


Figure 1 Metformin mode of action including chemopreventive potential in colorectal cancer development. CRC: Colorectal cancer; NF-κB: Nuclear factor κB; AMPK: Adenosine monophosphate-activated protein kinase; GSK3β: Glycogen synthase kinase-3β; PPAR-γ: Proliferator-activated receptor-γ; mTOR: Mechanistic target of rapamycin.

stem cells and potentially has a synergistic effect with other chemotherapeutics^[15,16].

Animal and *in vitro* studies indicate that the role of metformin as an antiproliferative agent on CRC cells is through the activation of AMPK^[17,18]. One of the first reports on anticancer effect of metformin in a CRC cell model showed the concentration and time-dependent effects on AMPK activation and the reduction of cancer cell proliferation^[19]. Other research provided further evidence of the apoptotic effects of metformin by modulating oxidative stress and nuclear factor-κB inflammatory responses^[20-22]. In the *in vitro* models, metformin was used either alone or in combination with other agents, primarily fluorouracil (commonly referred to as 5-FU)^[20,23-25], which is similar to its use in clinics.

CHEMOPREVENTIVE EFFECTS OF METFORMIN IN CRC TREATMENT

Previous studies have indicated that metformin may decrease the risk of development of colorectal carcinoma^[26,27]. Observational data indicates lower tumor incidence in diabetic patients taking metformin, and results from interventional studies show a reduction in the incidence of colorectal adenomas in patients without diabetes taking low-dose metformin^[28-30]. Specifically, in a phase 3 randomized trial, a 1-year treatment with low-dose metformin reduced the number and prevalence of premalignant colorectal lesions, such as polyps and adenomas, in patients without diabetes post polypectomy^[30]. A recently published retrospective cohort study including 47351 people found an inverse association between long-term (> 5 years) exposure to metformin in diabetic patients and the risk of CRC^[31], suggesting its chemopreventive potential. This finding was substantiated with the meta-analysis results of 58 studies showing that metformin usage significantly reduced the incidence of colorectal adenoma and CRC, improving overall and CRC-specific survival rates^[32].

On the other hand, data on the role metformin plays in CRC carcinogenesis in nondiabetic patients are not extensive. According to the randomized placebo-controlled trial results, metformin has the chemopreventive potential in nondiabetic patients with a high risk for CRC development^[33]. Although metformin therapy was usually well tolerated by patients with different cancers and side effects did not differ from those seen in diabetic patients (dose-related gastrointestinal adverse effects, rarely lactic acidosis, and vitamin B12 deficiency), more data are needed on the optimal dose, schedule, route of administration, treatment duration, and combinations with other chemotherapeutic agents for CRC patients (especially nondiabetic patients) to be able to minimize the potential side effects^[34-36].

METFORMIN AND SURVIVAL OF PATIENTS UNDERGOING TREATMENT FOR CRC

While there is substantial evidence that metformin may have a chemopreventive role in CRC development, the data on the possible effects of metformin after surgery and other CRC treatments are much less conclusive.

Lee *et al*^[37] first observed a protective effect of metformin after CRC diagnosis in a single institution cohort of 595 patients. Metformin use showed a lower risk of overall mortality [hazard ratio (HR) = 0.66; 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.476-0.923] and CRC-specific mortality (HR = 0.66; 95%CI: 0.45-0.975) in patients with diabetes. However, this analysis suffered from immortal time bias, which may have influenced the results^[38]. Franggaard *et al*^[39] examined the association between metformin and overall survival after resection for CRC in patients from the national Danish CRC database. They found better overall survival of patients treated with metformin compared to patients treated with insulin. However, cancer-specific mortality was not differentiated from diabetes-specific mortality, and it is not clear what their respective roles were in all-cause mortality. Therefore, it is impossible to ascertain whether better overall survival in the metformin-treated group can be attributed to metformin or the antitumor effects of other factors. Interestingly, in a recent paper, the same group found no association between metformin use and recurrence-free survival or disease-free survival in patients with surgically treated CRC^[40]. The findings of a large population-based analysis from the United Kingdom also do not support a protective association between post-diagnostic metformin use and survival in a cohort of CRC patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus^[41].

Several meta-analyses have been published on the topic, and most of them have reported a reduction in CRC-specific mortality with metformin use compared with nonuse in CRC patients^[42-45]. However, the studies included in these meta-analyses are very heterogeneous regarding their design and inclusion criteria (*e.g.*, analyzing patients with different CRC stages). Also, information is often not available on the types of surgeries and administered chemotherapy in the included studies.

Evidence exists that metformin in combination with adjuvant therapy may be associated with a better prognosis in CRC patients treated with metformin post-surgery. In preclinical studies, metformin has shown synergistic effects with oxaliplatin in inhibiting *in vitro* models of colon cancer^[46]. Based on such evidence, it was hypothesized that metformin combined with adjuvant chemotherapy might be associated with a better prognosis in patients with resected CRC. This was not confirmed in the setting of a randomized study in patients with resected high-risk stage II or stage III CRC who received FOLFOX-4/XELOX adjuvant therapy^[47]. Another study exploring the impact of metformin on overall survival and recurrence-free survival in a homogenous group of stage III CRC patients receiving FOLFOX adjuvant therapy failed to find a significant association^[48].

These findings stand in contrast to the findings of studies that found an association between metformin use and improved outcomes. However, these were the studies that considered patients with stages I-IV treated with different chemotherapy regimens, including both patients with low stages without adjuvant chemotherapy and patients with advanced stages who received multiple chemotherapeutics^[37,49,50]. Therefore, the effect of metformin on overall survival and recurrence-free survival in patients with CRC receiving chemotherapy after resection remains uncertain. Extensive prospective studies that include homogenous patient populations, ideally within randomized trials, with longer follow-up would provide more evidence on the possible association of metformin use and improved survival of patients after CRC treatment.

CONCLUSION

Mounting evidence suggests a chemopreventive role of metformin on CRC development, but the data on its role in diagnosed CRC in adjunct to surgery and chemotherapy are still inconclusive. Additional evidence from prospective, randomized controlled trials are required.

REFERENCES

- 1 Siegel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2019. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2019; **69**: 7-34 [PMID:

- 30620402 DOI: [10.3322/caac.21551](https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21551)]
- 2 Siegel R, Desantis C, Jemal A. Colorectal cancer statistics, 2014. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2014; **64**: 104-117 [PMID: [24639052](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24639052/) DOI: [10.3322/caac.21220](https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21220)]
 - 3 Vargas AJ, Thompson PA. Diet and nutrient factors in colorectal cancer risk. *Nutr Clin Pract* 2012; **27**: 613-623 [PMID: [22892274](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22892274/) DOI: [10.1177/0884533612454885](https://doi.org/10.1177/0884533612454885)]
 - 4 Buse JB, Wexler DJ, Tsapas A, Rossing P, Mingrone G, Mathieu C, D'Alessio DA, Davies MJ. 2019 Update to: Management of Hyperglycemia in Type 2 Diabetes, 2018. A Consensus Report by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD). *Diabetes Care* 2020; **43**: 487-493 [PMID: [31857443](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31857443/) DOI: [10.2337/dci19-0066](https://doi.org/10.2337/dci19-0066)]
 - 5 Handelsman Y, Leroith D, Bloomgarden ZT, Dagogo-Jack S, Einhorn D, Garber AJ, Grunberger G, Harrell RM, Gagel RF, Lebovitz HE, McGill JB, Hennekens CH. Diabetes and cancer--an AACE/ACE consensus statement. *Endocr Pract* 2013; **19**: 675-693 [PMID: [23978590](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23978590/) DOI: [10.4158/EP13248.CS](https://doi.org/10.4158/EP13248.CS)]
 - 6 Larsson SC, Orsini N, Wolk A. Diabetes mellitus and risk of colorectal cancer: a meta-analysis. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2005; **97**: 1679-1687 [PMID: [16288121](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16288121/) DOI: [10.1093/jnci/dji375](https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/dji375)]
 - 7 Godsland IF. Insulin resistance and hyperinsulinaemia in the development and progression of cancer. *Clin Sci (Lond)* 2009; **118**: 315-332 [PMID: [19922415](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19922415/) DOI: [10.1042/CS20090399](https://doi.org/10.1042/CS20090399)]
 - 8 Salani B, Del Rio A, Marini C, Sambuceti G, Cordera R, Maggi D. Metformin, cancer and glucose metabolism. *Endocr Relat Cancer* 2014; **21**: R461-R471 [PMID: [25273809](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25273809/) DOI: [10.1530/ERC-14-0284](https://doi.org/10.1530/ERC-14-0284)]
 - 9 Leone A, Di Gennaro E, Bruzzese F, Avallone A, Budillon A. New perspective for an old antidiabetic drug: metformin as anticancer agent. *Cancer Treat Res* 2014; **159**: 355-376 [PMID: [24114491](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24114491/) DOI: [10.1007/978-3-642-38007-5_21](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-38007-5_21)]
 - 10 Elmaci İ, Altinoz MA. A Metabolic Inhibitory Cocktail for Grave Cancers: Metformin, Pioglitazone and Lithium Combination in Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer and Glioblastoma Multiforme. *Biochem Genet* 2016; **54**: 573-618 [PMID: [27377891](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27377891/) DOI: [10.1007/s10528-016-9754-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10528-016-9754-9)]
 - 11 Slattery ML, Herrick JS, Lundgreen A, Fitzpatrick FA, Curtin K, Wolff RK. Genetic variation in a metabolic signaling pathway and colon and rectal cancer risk: mTOR, PTEN, STK11, RPKAA1, PRKAG2, TSC1, TSC2, PI3K and Akt1. *Carcinogenesis* 2010; **31**: 1604-1611 [PMID: [20622004](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20622004/) DOI: [10.1093/carcin/bgq142](https://doi.org/10.1093/carcin/bgq142)]
 - 12 Slattery ML, Fitzpatrick FA. Convergence of hormones, inflammation, and energy-related factors: a novel pathway of cancer etiology. *Cancer Prev Res (Phila)* 2009; **2**: 922-930 [PMID: [19892662](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19892662/) DOI: [10.1158/1940-6207.CAPR-08-0191](https://doi.org/10.1158/1940-6207.CAPR-08-0191)]
 - 13 Zi F, Zi H, Li Y, He J, Shi Q, Cai Z. Metformin and cancer: An existing drug for cancer prevention and therapy. *Oncol Lett* 2018; **15**: 683-690 [PMID: [29422962](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29422962/) DOI: [10.3892/ol.2017.7412](https://doi.org/10.3892/ol.2017.7412)]
 - 14 Vial G, Detaille D, Guigas B. Role of Mitochondria in the Mechanism(s) of Action of Metformin. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne)* 2019; **10**: 294 [PMID: [31133988](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31133988/) DOI: [10.3389/fendo.2019.00294](https://doi.org/10.3389/fendo.2019.00294)]
 - 15 Miranda VC, Braghiroli MI, Faria LD, Bariani G, Alex A, Bezerra Neto JE, Capareli FC, Sabbaga J, Lobo Dos Santos JF, Hoff PM, Riechelmann RP. Phase 2 Trial of Metformin Combined With 5-Fluorouracil in Patients With Refractory Metastatic Colorectal Cancer. *Clin Colorectal Cancer* 2016; **15**: 321-328. e1 [PMID: [27262895](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27262895/) DOI: [10.1016/j.clcc.2016.04.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clcc.2016.04.011)]
 - 16 Yang M, Liu P, Huang P. Cancer stem cells, metabolism, and therapeutic significance. *Tumour Biol* 2016; **37**: 5735-5742 [PMID: [26864589](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26864589/) DOI: [10.1007/s13277-016-4945-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13277-016-4945-x)]
 - 17 Aljada A, Mousa SA. Metformin and neoplasia: implications and indications. *Pharmacol Ther* 2012; **133**: 108-115 [PMID: [21924289](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21924289/) DOI: [10.1016/j.pharmthera.2011.09.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pharmthera.2011.09.004)]
 - 18 Liu X, Chhipa RR, Pooya S, Wortman M, Yachyshin S, Chow LM, Kumar A, Zhou X, Sun Y, Quinn B, McPherson C, Warnick RE, Kendler A, Giri S, Poels J, Norga K, Viollet B, Grabowski GA, Dasgupta B. Discrete mechanisms of mTOR and cell cycle regulation by AMPK agonists independent of AMPK. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2014; **111**: E435-E444 [PMID: [24474794](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24474794/) DOI: [10.1073/pnas.1311121111](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1311121111)]
 - 19 Zakikhani M, Dowling RJ, Sonenberg N, Pollak MN. The effects of adiponectin and metformin on prostate and colon neoplasia involve activation of AMP-activated protein kinase. *Cancer Prev Res (Phila)* 2008; **1**: 369-375 [PMID: [19138981](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19138981/) DOI: [10.1158/1940-6207.CAPR-08-0081](https://doi.org/10.1158/1940-6207.CAPR-08-0081)]
 - 20 Saber MM, Galal MA, Ain-Shoka AA, Shouman SA. Combination of metformin and 5-aminosalicylic acid cooperates to decrease proliferation and induce apoptosis in colorectal cancer cell lines. *BMC Cancer* 2016; **16**: 126 [PMID: [26896068](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26896068/) DOI: [10.1186/s12885-016-2157-9](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12885-016-2157-9)]
 - 21 Cho SY, Lee HJ, Jung DB, Kim H, Sohn EJ, Kim B, Jung JH, Kwon BM, Kim SH. Activation of AMP-Activated Protein Kinase α and Extracellular Signal-Regulated Kinase Mediates CB-PIC-Induced Apoptosis in Hypoxic SW620 Colorectal Cancer Cells. *Evid Based Complement Alternat Med* 2013; **2013**: 974313 [PMID: [23589723](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23589723/) DOI: [10.1155/2013/974313](https://doi.org/10.1155/2013/974313)]
 - 22 Nguyen TT, Ung TT, Li S, Lian S, Xia Y, Park SY, Do Jung Y. Metformin inhibits lithocholic acid-induced interleukin 8 upregulation in colorectal cancer cells by suppressing ROS production and NF- κ B activity. *Sci Rep* 2019; **9**: 2003 [PMID: [30765814](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30765814/) DOI: [10.1038/s41598-019-38778-2](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-38778-2)]
 - 23 Abu El Maaty MA, Strassburger W, Qaiser T, Dabiri Y, Wöfl S. Differences in p53 status significantly influence the cellular response and cell survival to 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D3-metformin cotreatment in colorectal cancer cells. *Mol Carcinog* 2017; **56**: 2486-2498 [PMID: [28618116](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28618116/) DOI: [10.1002/mc.22696](https://doi.org/10.1002/mc.22696)]
 - 24 Feng YH, Wu CL, Shiao AL, Lee JC, Chang JG, Lu PJ, Tung CL, Feng LY, Huang WT, Tsao CJ. MicroRNA-21-mediated regulation of Sprouty2 protein expression enhances the cytotoxic effect of 5-

- fluorouracil and metformin in colon cancer cells. *Int J Mol Med* 2012; **29**: 920-926 [PMID: 22322462 DOI: 10.3892/ijmm.2012.910]
- 25 **Huang WS**, Lin CT, Chen CN, Chang SF, Chang HI, Lee KC. Metformin increases the cytotoxicity of oxaliplatin in human DLD-1 colorectal cancer cells through down-regulating HMGB1 expression. *J Cell Biochem* 2018; **119**: 6943-6952 [PMID: 29737584 DOI: 10.1002/jcb.26898]
- 26 **Singh S**, Singh H, Singh PP, Murad MH, Limburg PJ. Antidiabetic medications and the risk of colorectal cancer in patients with diabetes mellitus: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 2013; **22**: 2258-2268 [PMID: 24042261 DOI: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-13-0429]
- 27 **Sehdev A**, Shih YC, Vekhter B, Bissonnette MB, Olopade OI, Polite BN. Metformin for primary colorectal cancer prevention in patients with diabetes: a case-control study in a US population. *Cancer* 2015; **121**: 1071-1078 [PMID: 25424411 DOI: 10.1002/cncr.29165]
- 28 **Liu F**, Yan L, Wang Z, Lu Y, Chu Y, Li X, Liu Y, Rui D, Nie S, Xiang H. Metformin therapy and risk of colorectal adenomas and colorectal cancer in type 2 diabetes mellitus patients: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Oncotarget* 2017; **8**: 16017-16026 [PMID: 27926481 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.13762]
- 29 **Hosono K**, Endo H, Takahashi H, Sugiyama M, Sakai E, Uchiyama T, Suzuki K, Iida H, Sakamoto Y, Yoneda K, Koide T, Tokoro C, Abe Y, Inamori M, Nakagama H, Nakajima A. Metformin suppresses colorectal aberrant crypt foci in a short-term clinical trial. *Cancer Prev Res (Phila)* 2010; **3**: 1077-1083 [PMID: 20810669 DOI: 10.1158/1940-6207.CAPR-10-0186]
- 30 **Higurashi T**, Hosono K, Takahashi H, Komiya Y, Umezawa S, Sakai E, Uchiyama T, Taniguchi L, Hata Y, Uchiyama S, Hattori A, Nagase H, Kessoku T, Arimoto J, Matsuhashi N, Inayama Y, Yamanaka S, Taguri M, Nakajima A. Metformin for chemoprevention of metachronous colorectal adenoma or polyps in post-polypectomy patients without diabetes: a multicentre double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomised phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncol* 2016; **17**: 475-483 [PMID: 26947328 DOI: 10.1016/S1470-2045(15)00565-3]
- 31 **Bradley MC**, Ferrara A, Achacoso N, Ehrlich SF, Quesenberry CP Jr, Habel LA. A Cohort Study of Metformin and Colorectal Cancer Risk among Patients with Diabetes Mellitus. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 2018; **27**: 525-530 [PMID: 29716927 DOI: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-17-0424]
- 32 **Ng CW**, Jiang AA, Toh EMS, Ng CH, Ong ZH, Peng S, Tham HY, Sundar R, Chong CS, Khoo CM. Metformin and colorectal cancer: a systematic review, meta-analysis and meta-regression. *Int J Colorectal Dis* 2020; **35**: 1501-1512 [PMID: 32592092 DOI: 10.1007/s00384-020-03676-x]
- 33 **Higurashi T**, Takahashi H, Endo H, Hosono K, Yamada E, Ohkubo H, Sakai E, Uchiyama T, Hata Y, Fujisawa N, Uchiyama S, Ezuka A, Nagase H, Kessoku T, Matsuhashi N, Yamanaka S, Inayama Y, Morita S, Nakajima A. Metformin efficacy and safety for colorectal polyps: a double-blind randomized controlled trial. *BMC Cancer* 2012; **12**: 118 [PMID: 22443173 DOI: 10.1186/1471-2407-12-118]
- 34 **Molenaar RJ**, van de Venne T, Weterman MJ, Mathot RA, Klumpen HJ, Richel DJ, Wilmink JW. A phase Ib study of everolimus combined with metformin for patients with advanced cancer. *Invest New Drugs* 2018; **36**: 53-61 [PMID: 28616837 DOI: 10.1007/s10637-017-0478-4]
- 35 **Mastroianni A**, Cimiselli CM, Panella R, Macciotta A, Cavalleri A, Venturelli E, Taverna F, Mazzocchi A, Bruno E, Muti P, Berrino F, Verderio P, Morelli D, Pasanisi P. Monitoring Vitamin B₁₂ in Women Treated with Metformin for Primary Prevention of Breast Cancer and Age-Related Chronic Diseases. *Nutrients* 2019; **11** [PMID: 31067706 DOI: 10.3390/nu11051020]
- 36 **Aldea M**, Craciun L, Tomuleasa C, Berindan-Neagoe I, Kacso G, Florian IS, Crivii C. Repositioning metformin in cancer: genetics, drug targets, and new ways of delivery. *Tumour Biol* 2014; **35**: 5101-5110 [PMID: 24504677 DOI: 10.1007/s13277-014-1676-8]
- 37 **Lee JH**, Kim TI, Jeon SM, Hong SP, Cheon JH, Kim WH. The effects of metformin on the survival of colorectal cancer patients with diabetes mellitus. *Int J Cancer* 2012; **131**: 752-759 [PMID: 21913184 DOI: 10.1002/ijc.26421]
- 38 **Suissa S**, Azoulay L. Metformin and the risk of cancer: time-related biases in observational studies. *Diabetes Care* 2012; **35**: 2665-2673 [PMID: 23173135 DOI: 10.2337/dc12-0788]
- 39 **Fransgaard T**, Thygesen LC, Gögenur I. Metformin Increases Overall Survival in Patients with Diabetes Undergoing Surgery for Colorectal Cancer. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2016; **23**: 1569-1575 [PMID: 26714936 DOI: 10.1245/s10434-015-5028-8]
- 40 **Fransgaard T**, Thygesen LC, Gögenur I. Association between metformin use after surgery for colorectal cancer and oncological outcomes: A nationwide register-based study. *Int J Cancer* 2018; **143**: 63-72 [PMID: 29435974 DOI: 10.1002/ijc.31305]
- 41 **Mc Menamin ÚC**, Murray LJ, Hughes CM, Cardwell CR. Metformin use and survival after colorectal cancer: A population-based cohort study. *Int J Cancer* 2016; **138**: 369-379 [PMID: 26331456 DOI: 10.1002/ijc.29720]
- 42 **Singh PP**, Singh S, Gonsalves WI, Grothey A. Association of metformin with reduced mortality in patients with colorectal cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. *J Clin Oncol* 2014; **32**: 522a [DOI: 10.1200/jco.2014.32.3_suppl.522]
- 43 **Coyle C**, Cafferty FH, Vale C, Langley RE. Metformin as an adjuvant treatment for cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Ann Oncol* 2016; **27**: 2184-2195 [PMID: 27681864 DOI: 10.1093/annonc/mdw410]
- 44 **Du L**, Wang M, Kang Y, Li B, Guo M, Cheng Z, Bi C. Prognostic role of metformin intake in diabetic patients with colorectal cancer: An updated qualitative evidence of cohort studies. *Oncotarget*

- 2017; **8**: 26448-26459 [PMID: [28103573](#) DOI: [10.18632/oncotarget.14688](#)]
- 45 **Meng F**, Song L, Wang W. Metformin Improves Overall Survival of Colorectal Cancer Patients with Diabetes: A Meta-Analysis. *J Diabetes Res* 2017; **2017**: 5063239 [PMID: [28271076](#) DOI: [10.1155/2017/5063239](#)]
- 46 **Richard SM**, Martinez Marignac VL. Sensitization to oxaliplatin in HCT116 and HT29 cell lines by metformin and ribavirin and differences in response to mitochondrial glutaminase inhibition. *J Cancer Res Ther* 2015; **11**: 336-340 [PMID: [26148596](#) DOI: [10.4103/0973-1482.157317](#)]
- 47 **Vernieri C**, Galli F, Ferrari L, Marchetti P, Lonardi S, Maiello E, Iaffaioli RV, Zampino MG, Zaniboni A, De Placido S, Banzi M, Damiani A, Ferrari D, Rosati G, Labianca RF, Bidoli P, Frassinetti GL, Nicolini M, Pavesi L, Tronconi MC, Buonadonna A, Ferrario S, Re GL, Adamo V, Tamburini E, Clerico M, Giordani P, Leonardi F, Barni S, Ciarlo A, Cavanna L, Gori S, Cinieri S, Faedi M, Aglietta M, Antista M, Dotti KF, Di Bartolomeo M; TOSCA (Three or Six Colon Adjuvant) Investigators. Impact of Metformin Use and Diabetic Status During Adjuvant Fluoropyrimidine-Oxaliplatin Chemotherapy on the Outcome of Patients with Resected Colon Cancer: A TOSCA Study Subanalysis. *Oncologist* 2019; **24**: 385-393 [PMID: [30606884](#) DOI: [10.1634/theoncologist.2018-0442](#)]
- 48 **Singh PP**, Shi Q, Foster NR, Grothey A, Nair SG, Chan E, Shields AF, Goldberg RM, Gill S, Kahlenberg MS, Sinicrope FA, Sargent DJ, Alberts SR. Relationship Between Metformin Use and Recurrence and Survival in Patients With Resected Stage III Colon Cancer Receiving Adjuvant Chemotherapy: Results From North Central Cancer Treatment Group N0147 (Alliance). *Oncologist* 2016; **21**: 1509-1521 [PMID: [27881709](#) DOI: [10.1634/theoncologist.2016-0153](#)]
- 49 **Lee GE**, Aung T, Kim TH, Tan WS, Tai WMD, Tan H, Tan IB. Examining the effects of metformin on survival outcome in stage II/III colorectal cancer patients with diabetes mellitus. *J Clin Oncol* 2012; **30** (Suppl 15): 3589a [DOI: [10.1200/jco.2012.30.15_suppl.3589](#)]
- 50 **Spillane S**, Bennett K, Sharp L, Barron TI. A cohort study of metformin exposure and survival in patients with stage I-III colorectal cancer. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 2013; **22**: 1364-1373 [PMID: [23753040](#) DOI: [10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-13-0347](#)]



Published by **Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**
7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-3991568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
Help Desk: <https://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk>
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

