LUNG ALERT

Folate metabolism gene polymorphisms may influence lung cancer prognosis

A reduced overall survival was observed for single polymorphisms of MTHFS, MTHFR and MTRR genes. Specifically, associations with MTHFS Thr202Ala were related to reduced survival for all lung cancers for heterozygosity, homozygosity and carrier status. Carrier status for MTRR Ser175Leu was associated with a poorer outcome in all lung cancers, and homozygosity for the polymorphism MTHFR Ala222Val in small cell lung cancer. Carriers of MTHFR Arg594Gln with non-small cell lung cancer had a slightly longer overall survival. Staging and histology, both very important prognostic indicators, had no correlation with polymorphisms tested.

This study provides evidence for associations between survival and variation in three genes of folate metabolism; however, some of the associations may be false positives due to the methods used. Further genetic studies are needed to truly assess the influence of folate metabolism gene polymorphisms on clinical outcomes of survival and prognosis of lung cancer.

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