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Homocysteine, cysteine, and risk of incident colorectal cancer in the Women's Health Initiative observational cohort.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Inflammation underlies the etiology of colorectal cancer (CRC). Hyperhomocysteinemia is associated with inflammation and may be a risk marker for CRC. Cysteine is a metabolic product of homocysteine and a precursor of the antioxidant glutathione. It is unknown whether cysteine is associated with CRC.

Conclusion: High plasma homocysteine is associated with increased risk of CRC, whereas high cysteine is associated with decreased risk.