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Summary

CLINICAL AND MOLECULAR DIFFERENCES IN 1,068 PATIENTS WITH COLORECTAL CANCER DEPENDING ON SEX

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Colorectal

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A prospective study of 1,068 colorectal cancer patients found sex differences in tumor location, molecular profiles, and survival, with females showing more right-sided tumors, greater loss of MLH-1 and PMS-2 expression, and better overall survival than males.

KEY POINTS

- Among 1,068 CRC patients (630 males, 438 females), females had significantly more right colon cancers (33.1% vs 25.9%, p=0.022) compared to males.
- Loss of MLH-1 and PMS-2 expression was significantly more common in females (p<0.001 and p=0.003, respectively), which appeared associated with right-sided tumor location.
- Females demonstrated better overall survival (p=0.031) and disease-specific survival (p=0.088) than males, with the difference most pronounced in the 40-69 age group (overall survival p=0.024).
- In multivariate analysis, older age (p=0.001), lower BMI (p<0.001), presence of symptoms (p=0.048), advanced stage (p<0.001), and BRAF mutation (p=0.030) were significant risk factors for disease-related death.
- Males had significantly higher rates of smoking and drinking (p<0.001 for both) compared to females.

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