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Measuring quality of life among colorectal cancer patients in Jordan.

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Abstract: Quality of life among colorectal cancer (CRC) patients was evaluated using the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Quality of Life Questionnaire (QLQ) C30 and EORTC QLQ-CR29. We interviewed 74 CRC patients, and our results indicated lower anxiety functional scores and higher abdominal pain and embarrassment symptom scores among patients aged 55 and under. Patients with disease metastasis showed significantly lower global health scores and higher fatigue, loss of appetite, hair loss, and change in taste symptom scores. Scores for emotional functioning were significantly lower among patients with stage IV disease. Fatigue, nausea and vomiting, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, and change in taste symptom scores were significantly higher in patients treated with a combination of surgery and chemotherapy compared to surgery alone. Age, disease metastasis, late disease stage, and combined treatment modalities were associated with lower scores on health-related quality-of-life scales; patients likely to have low scores on these measures should receive special attention from healthcare providers and be targeted by supportive care strategies.