Circulating Tumor DNA for Minimal Residual Disease Detection and Risk-Stratified Recurrence Surveillance in Colorectal Cancer

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Sensitive methods for postoperative risk stratification, monitoring therapeutic efficacy, and early relapse detection may have a major impact on treatment decisions and patient management of cancer patients treated with curatively intended resection. Using colorectal cancer as example I will illustrate the promising perspectives of using circulating tumor DNA based methods for these tasks. Beyond assessing the predictive power of postoperative ctDNA detection at landmark timepoints, I will address the added benefits of serial analysis for: assessing adjuvant chemotherapy (ACT) efficacy, early relapse detection. Finally, I will present our ongoing randomized trial IMPROVE-IT2, which is aimed at illustrating clinical utility of ctDNA guided follow-up after resection of colorectal cancer.