

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Adjuvant chemotherapy for high-risk stage II colon cancer

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### Abstract

**Back ground/Aimes:** The use of adjuvant chemotherapy remains controversial in stage II colon cancer, but some patients at high risk for tumor recurrence are thought to benefit. The aim of this study was to identify clinicopathological features associated with poor outcomes in stage II colon cancer and to define the subgroup of patients at greatest risk.

**Methodology:** From January 1990 through December 2004, a total of 272 patients with stage II colon cancer received curative resection at Kanagawa Cancer Center. The median follow up was 63.3 months.

**Results:** The 5-year disease-free survival was 89.2% in the study group as a whole. Multivariate analysis identified two independent factors that were significantly related to disease-free survival: T4 lesions ( $p=0.013$ ) and lymphatic invasion ( $p=0.007$ ). The 5-year disease-free survival differed significantly among patients with neither of these poor prognostic factors (94.9%), those with only 1 factor (90.4%), and those with 2 factors (71%,  $p=0.0001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Patients with stage II colon cancer who have both T4 lesions and lymphatic invasion are at high risk for recurrence. The use of adjuvant chemotherapy should be considered in this subgroup of patients.

**Key words:** colon cancer, stage II, high risk, disease free survival