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Metformin Could Control Neoadjuvant Chemo Toxicities in Breast Cancer Patients

ROCKVILLE, MD — Metformin, an antidiabetic drug, may offer a therapeutic treatment to control neoadjuvant chemotherapy toxicities in non-diabetic breast cancer patients, according to a recent randomized, controlled study. The research was presented at the 2023 annual meeting of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

Research shows that when metformin is added to Adriamycin-cyclophosphamide (AC-T), many diabetic symptoms decreased significantly for breast cancer patients. Researchers have indicated that there is less incidence and severity compared to the study control arm. Those symptoms include peripheral neuropathy, oral mucositis and fatigue. The research team investigated whether metformin—used to treat Type 2 diabetes—could favorably offset AC-T-induced toxicities.

"Patients were interviewed regularly to record the incidence and severity of adverse events based on the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events. Furthermore, fatty liver incidence was significantly lower in metformin compared with the study control arm," according to the researchers.

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