Cancer risk up for RA patients with venous thromboembolism

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(HealthDay)—Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and venous thromboembolism (VTE) have increased risk of cancer in the first year after VTE and during a longer follow-up period, according to a study published online Sept. 15 in the *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*.

Alma B. Pedersen, M.D., Ph.D., from Aarhus University Hospital in Denmark, and colleagues examined the cancer risk subsequent to VTE among RA patients. Patients with RA and a first-time diagnosis of VTE (index date) during 1978 to 2013 were included (2,497 patients) and compared with patients in an RA cohort without VTE (11,672 patients) and a general population without RA and without VTE (12,730 individuals).

The researchers found that the cumulative incidence of cancer within the first year of the index date was 3.2, 2.2, and 2 percent among RA patients with VTE, among RA patients without VTE, and in the general population cohort. The incidence rate ratios were 1.79 and 2.12 for RA

patients with VTE versus RA patients without VTE and the general population, respectively. From more than one to 36 years after the index date, the incidence rate ratios of cancer for RA patients with VTE were 1.16 and 1.33 compared with RA patients without VTE and the general population, respectively.

"VTE may not only be a result of inflammation and immunological dysfunctions associated with RA, but may also be a marker for occult cancer," the authors write.

  More information: Abstract
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