

Good diet may cut toxicity risk in treatment of pediatric ALL

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(HealthDay)—Diets high in antioxidant-rich foods may cut the risk of

developing bacterial infections or mucositis during the first phase of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) treatment in pediatric patients, according to a study published in the July 1 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Elena J. Ladas, Ph.D., R.D., from the Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, and colleagues analyzed clinical and dietary survey data from 513 children with ALL participating in a prospective clinical trial. Associations between dietary intake of antioxidants and treatment-related toxicities and survival were evaluated both in the induction and postinduction phases of therapy.

The researchers found that 23 and 16 percent of patients experienced a [bacterial infection](#) during the induction or postinduction phases of treatment, respectively, while 4 and 10 percent, respectively, experienced mucositis. There was a significant association noted between increased intake of dietary antioxidants and lower rates of [infection](#) and mucositis. There were no associations seen between dietary antioxidants and either relapse or disease-free survival. Additionally, the investigators observed no associations between supplementation and toxicity, relapse, or survival.

"This is the first study to suggest that a high-quality diet, rather than taking supplements, during ALL treatment may be beneficial in reducing these common toxicities," a coauthor said in a statement.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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