

# **Surgery Improves Survival With GI Stromal Tumors**

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Imatinib therapy with surgical removal of residual tumors outperformed imatinib therapy alone among patients with recurrent and metastatic gastrointestinal stromal tumors, researchers reported. Patients who received surgical treatment of residual tumors after imatinib therapy had significantly better progression-free survival and overall survival than those treated with imatinib alone, said Seong Joon Park, MD, of University of Ulsan College of Medicine in Seoul, South Korea.

In addition to surgical intervention, progression-free survival was associated with female sex, KIT exon 11 mutation, and low tumor burden, while overall survival was associated with low tumor burden, Park and colleagues reported at the Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium. "This study strongly suggests that surgical resection of the residual lesions after disease control with imatinib may be beneficial in patients with metastatic or recurrent gastrointestinal stromal tumors," Park said during the briefing.

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