

**The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) and the
Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF)
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*The Cyclooxygenase-2 Selective Inhibitors Rofecoxib and Celecoxib
Protect Against Esophageal Carcinoma*

The use of two medications – Rofecoxib and Celecoxib – is associated with a reduced risk of esophageal cancer, according to a Quebec based study.

The study followed patients in a government database in Quebec age 65 and over from January 1999 to September 2002. A total of 251 cases with esophageal cancer and 86,644 controls were studied for their exposure to the two medications, as well as conventional NSAIDs and ASA for at least 30 days, which served as an indicator that the patient was likely using it for a much longer period according to researcher Dr. Alan Barkun (Chief, Division of Gastroenterology, Montreal Centre Hospital Site, McGill University Health Centre)

“When you take all of the patients, look at the consumption of medications they took and those who developed cancer, you can say the use of coxibs and NSAIDs is associated with a reduced rate of esophageal cancer,” said Dr. Barkun.

Earlier studies, including one recently published by the McGill group, demonstrated that exposure to coxibs is also associated with decreased incidences of other cancers.

In this study, the likelihood of developing esophageal cancer was adjusted by the presence of confirmed risk factors, including male sex and advancing age. The disease has a rising incidence rate and poor survival rate.

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