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Curable Metastatic Colon Cancer

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For patients with metastatic colon cancer, management has evolved from resecting a single liver metastasis and having only one chemotherapy medicine, to resecting multiple metastases including those outside the liver as well as using combination chemotherapy (based on recent supportive trials) to improve outcomes. This success has also raised many questions, including the following: Which drugs should we use and for how long? Is there an optimum timing of chemotherapy and surgery? Is radiofrequency ablation (RFA) equal to resection? Are the outcomes with lung metastases the same as those with liver metastases? Can we convert the unresectable to resectable status? Finally, what about resecting lymph nodes? In this brief review, results of recent clinical trials that are helping to shape current and future treatment algorithms for patients with metastatic colon cancer will be discussed.