

# The treatment of elderly patients with colorectal cancer

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# **The treatment of elderly patients with colorectal cancer**

## A step towards personalised management

Stijn Henricus Johannes Ketelaers

1. Elderly patients should not be withheld optimal curative treatment based on older age or the presence of comorbidities alone – *this thesis*
2. While older age does not preclude a restorative resection, a permanent end colostomy should always be discussed in elderly rectal cancer patients – *this thesis*
3. Close alignment of care and effective communication between the geriatrician, the surgeon, and the rest of the multidisciplinary team is crucial to tailor treatment in elderly colorectal cancer patients – *this thesis*
4. Improvements in the perioperative care, including the implementation and optimisation of ERAS protocols, greatly benefit the older population – *this thesis*
5. Non-operative treatment strategies offer a viable alternative for elderly and frail patients – *this thesis*
6. The RESORT study will, apart from gaining insights in the outcomes of elderly colorectal cancer patients, improve the care of these patients by refining the decision-making and intensifying the multidisciplinary collaboration – *impact paragraph*
7. Nothing will be black or white, and ultimately the patient and the doctor will have to weigh the pros and cons of the different options. This is where science meets art – *GL Beets, Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology 2021*
8. Good surgeons know how to operate, better ones when to operate, and the best when not to operate – *BMJ 1999*
9. Cancer begins and ends with people. In the midst of scientific abstraction, it is sometimes possible to forget this one basic fact – *The Emperor of All Maladies, Siddhartha Mukherjee*
10. A society that does not value its older people, denies its roots and endangers its future. Let us strive to enhance their capacity to support themselves for as long as possible and, when they cannot do so anymore, to care for them – *Nelson Mandela*
11. I thought of that while riding my bicycle – *Albert Einstein*