### Polyps & Colorectal cancer



K. Geboes

### Colorectal cancer

94%

- Sporadic type
- Hereditary background
  4%
  - Familial Adenomatous Polyposis
  - Hereditary NonPolyposis CC
  - Juvenile polyposis
  - Hyperplastic polyposis
- IBD-related

### Content

- Precursor lesions
  - Definition
  - Subtypes
  - Microscopy
    - Sporadic
      - Flat lesions
      - Polyps
    - IBD
  - Handling specimens and risk factors

# Colorectal cancer and precursor lesions Sporadic ca – FAP - IBD

- Polyp cancer sequence
  - Adenoma cancer sequence (Morson et al 1984)
- Flat adenoma (Muto et al 1985)
  - Nonpolypoid lesion
  - Height < 3 mm
  - Mucosal thickness is twice or less that of the surrounding mucosa
- Sessile serrated adenoma/polyp/lesion
- Dysplasia

## Polypoid (pedunculated adenoma) Flat adenoma (668888/1)





#### Colorectal cancer and precursor lesions: IBD

Flat dysplasia
Elevated lesions

95%

Hurlstone et al., Endoscopy 2005, Chromoendoscopy in UC

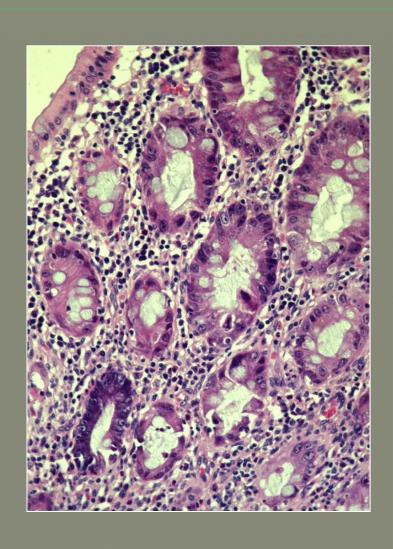
	HMCC group	Control group	Total	P value HMCC vs. Control
No. of intraepithelial neoplastic lesions detected	69	24	93	< 0.0001
Low-grade dysplasia High-grade dysplasia	44 25	19 5	63 30	< 0.05 < 0.01
No. of invasive neoplastic lesions detected (T2 or beyond)	3	1	4	n.s.
No. of flat mucosal lesions (JRSC II) with intraepithelial neoplasia	53	14	67	< 0.001
No. of exophytic lesions (JRSC I) with intraepithelial neoplasia	16	10	26	> 0.1

### Flat lesions

## Colorectal cancer and precursor lesions: Macroscopy

- Stereomicroscopy Magnifying endoscopy
  - Aberrant Crypt focus (micro-adenoma; unicryptal adenoma)
    - With hyperplastic non-dysplastic epithelial lining
    - With intraepithelial neoplasia dysplastic type

#### Precursor lesions 662079/6 Aberrant crypt focus colon Microadenoma - monocryptal adenoma



#### Adenomas – Special type

Muto T e.a. Small "flat adenoma" of the large bowel with special reference to the clinicopathologic features. Dis Colon and Rectum

1985; 28:847-51

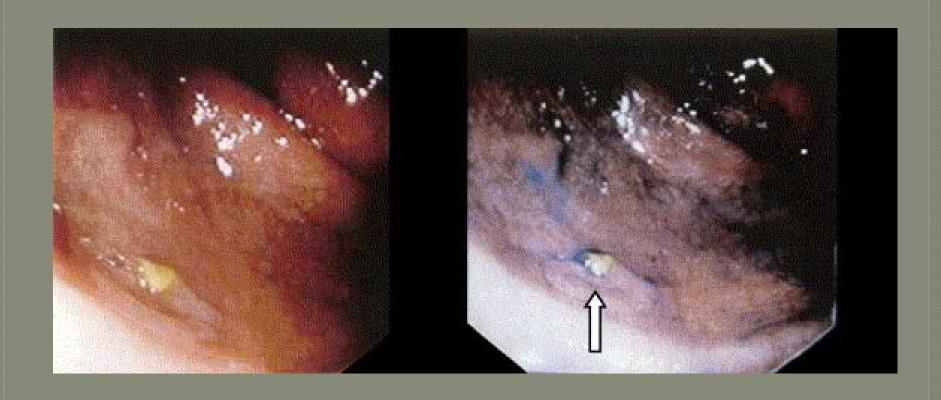
Definition

#### Flat elevated lesions (FELs)

- Lesions characterized by a slight elevation and a flat upper surface with a reddish colour
- Generally smaller than 10 mm
- Central depression with air insufflation

#### Histology

- Thickness: less than twice the surrounding mucosa
- adenoma = Flat adenomas (FAs)



### Histology of Flat elevated lesions

Gualco et al. Ann Diagn Pathol 2006; 10: 333

- 33 FELs less than 10 mm
  - 12 (36.4%) =adenoma
  - 10 = hyperplastic polyp
  - l = inflammatory polyp
- Nonneoplastic lesions
  - Inflammatory polyps
  - Lymphoid nodules
- Flat adenomas
- Flat serrated lesions

### Flat adenoma



### Flat adenoma: significance

- Originally difficult diagnosis at endoscopy
- Frequency: 6.8% 44.4% of all colorectal adenomas
- Flat adenomas at small size demonstrate a higher incidence of
  - Advanced histology (villous aspect...)
  - High grade dysplasia
  - Submucosal cancer
  - Aneuploidy

## Small flat colorectal Ca in the UK population (Tweede e a Colorectal Disease 2007)

## 1763 surgically resected Colorectal cancers

- 61 small cancers < 20 mm across
- 39/61 (64%) flat morphology
- 20/61 (33%) polypoid cancers

## Polyps

### Definitions

- Polyp: mass of tissue that arises from mucous membranes and protrudes into the lumen.
- Macroscopy / precise nature unclear
- Microscopy: neoplasm (= dysplasia); epithelial lesion
- Adenoma: circumscribed benign neoplasm composed of tubular and/or villous structures lined by dysplastic epithelium (WHO)
- Other

## Pedunculated adenoma & Hyperplastic polyp

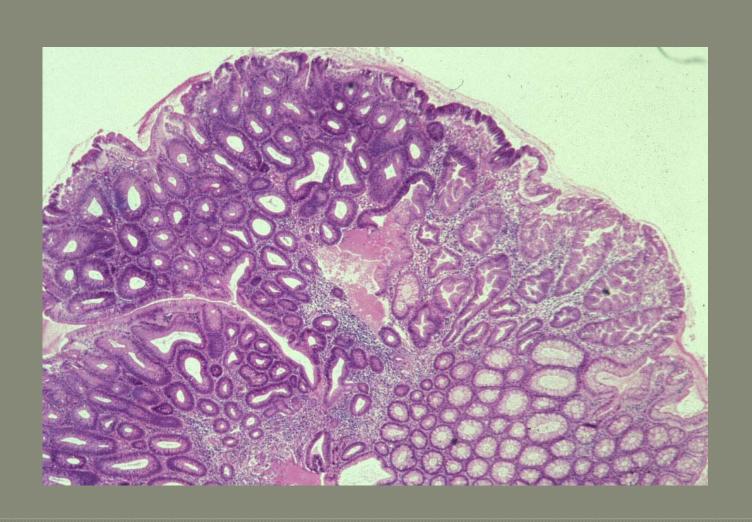


#### Colorectal cancer and precursor lesions

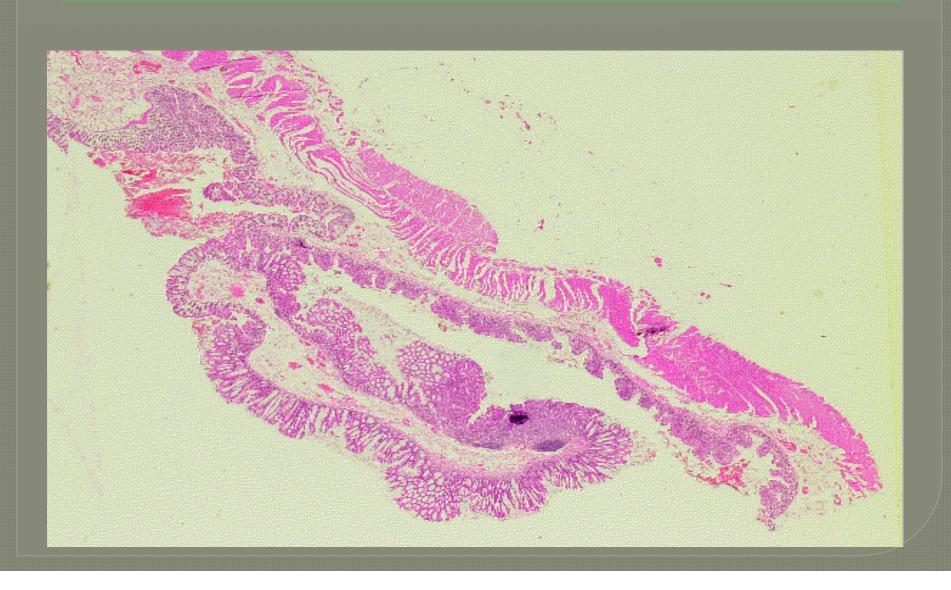
- Juvenile polyposis
  - Juvenile polyp
- Peutz-Jeghers
- Hyperplastic polyposis



## Sessile serrated adenoma with dysplasia (B557607)



## Serrated polyp with dysplasia and (intramucosal) carcinoma/ colon

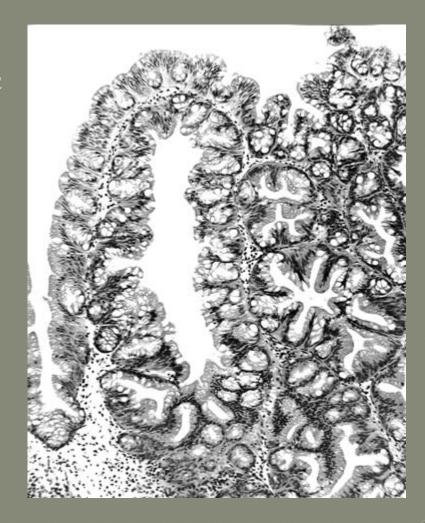


### Microtubular adenoma (MTA)?

Rubio & Jamarillo Anticancer res 2013

Dysplastic epithelium arranged in closed rings (microtubules), with sideways-elongated outgrowth.

High frequency of Submucosal carcinom strongly suggests that MTA is an important alternative pathway in colorectal carcinogenesis.



### IBD

## Elevated lesions in IBD Terminology

#### Not related to colitis

- Sporadic adenoma adenoma-like lesion (ALM)
- Sessile serrated adenoma (?)Colitis associated
- Flat dysplasia
- DALM
- Sessile serrated adenoma (non-dysplastic and dysplastic DALM?)

Essentially two types OF LESIONS depending mainly on the presence of surrounding flat dysplasia

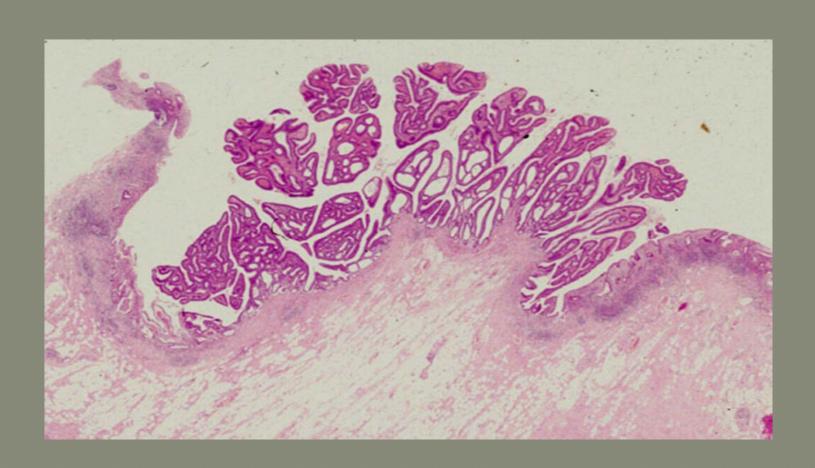
- Sporadic adenoma or adenoma-like lesion mass (ALM) (in healthy, non-colitic areas) (Neuman H et al WJG 2011)

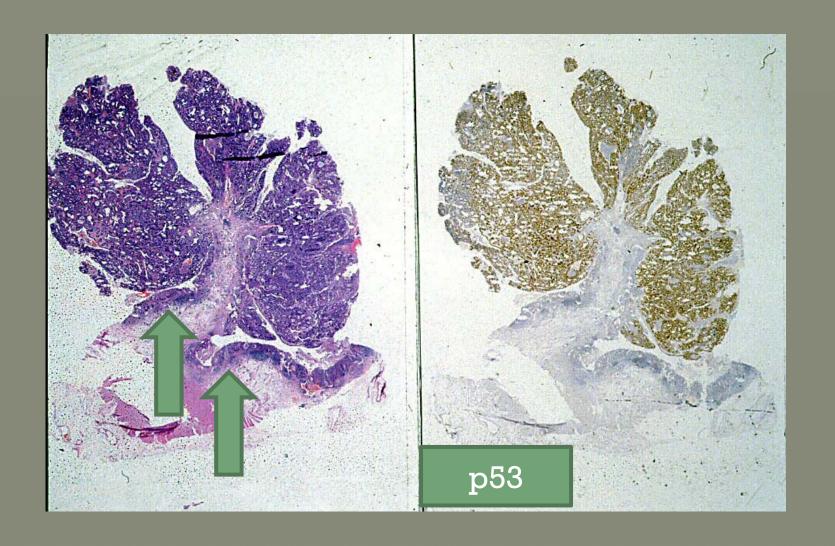
and

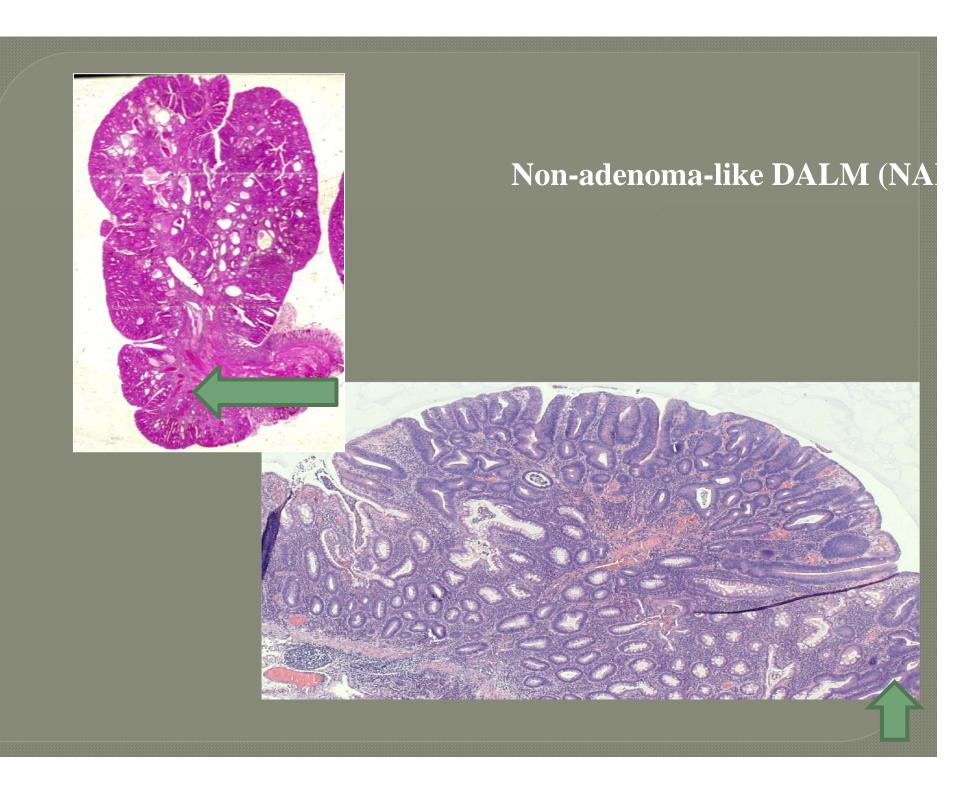
- Adenoma-like DALM (in colitic areas) (ALD) in US
- DALM: non-adenoma-like dysplasia (NALD) in US

(Friedmann e.a. 2003, Farraye e.a; 2007, Thomas & Robinson 2007, Neurath et al 2011)

#### Adenoma-like Dalm (ALD)







### Definitions

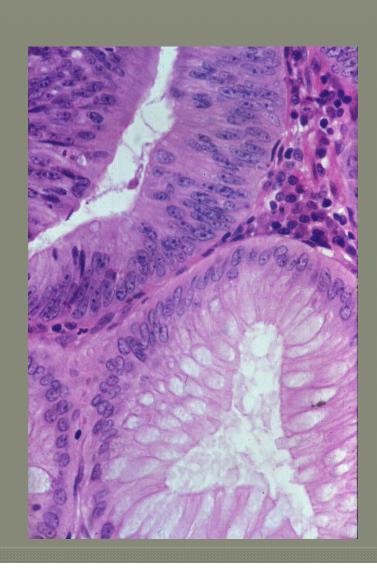
#### Dysplasia

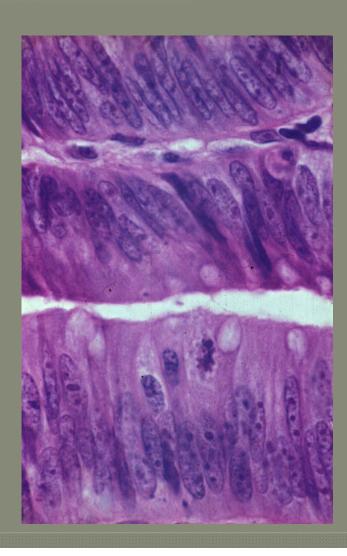
- Microscopy
  - structural changes of epithelium related to neoplasia
    - Definition: "atypical mucosa restricted to the epithelial layer" (Oehlert 1979; Grundmann 1982) Stomach
    - Definition: Precise "unequivocal non-invasive (confined within the basement membrane) neoplastic transformation of the epithelium exclduding reactive changes (Riddell e.a. 1983) IBD
  - Abnormalities of
    - Architecture
    - Cytology including differentiation

### Intraepithelial neoplasia Microscopy

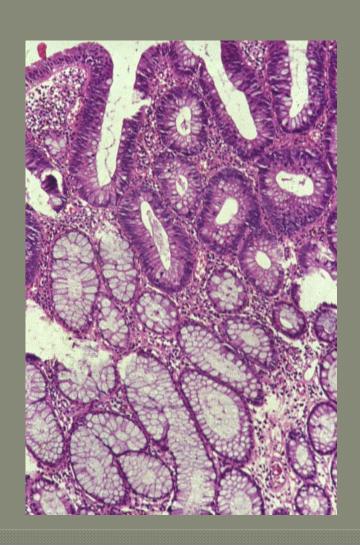
- Cytology
  - Nuclear enlargement
  - Elongation
  - Relocation (farther from basement membrane)
  - Hyperchromatism
  - Polarity
- Differentiation
  - Mucin secretion
  - Hyperchromatic basophilic cytoplasm
- Architecture
  - Crowding
  - budding

### Intraepithelial neoplasia Microscopy : cytology





### Intraepithelial neoplasia Microscopy: architecture

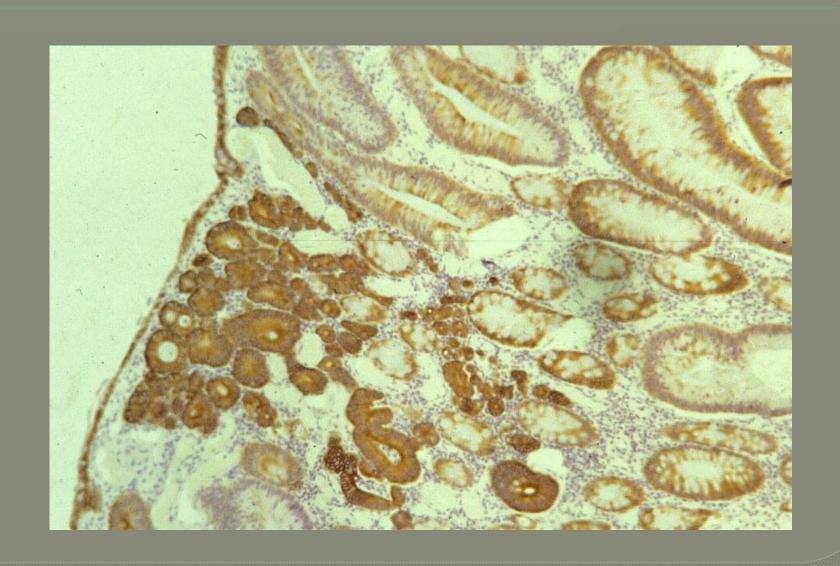




### Intraepithelial neoplasia Malignancy

- Japanese viewpoint
  - Cytology (rounded enlarged nuclei)
  - Architecture (budding)
- Western viewpoint
  - Cribriform solid patterns = High-grade dysplasia - intraepithelial carcinoma or non-invasive carcinoma
  - US:?
  - Invasion of the lamina propria of the mucosa through the basement membrane = intramucosal carcinoma

## 



Colorectal adenomas containing invasive adenocarcinoma that extends through the muscularis mucosae into the submucosa have been defined as "malignant polyps."

This term encompasses cases in which the entire polyp head is replaced by carcinoma and adenomas with focal malignancy

But the definition excludes adenomas with high-grade dysplasia (intraepithelial carcinoma) or intramucosal carcinoma (invasive carcinoma limited to the lamina propria or invading no deeper than the muscularis mucosae) because these polyps possess negligible biologic potential for metastasis.

Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2009

## Intraepithelial neoplasia & Malignancy COLON

- The mucosa of the colon lacks lymphatics
- Therefore "intramucosal cancer" will not disseminate

#### Digestive tract

#### Colon

- High-gradeIntraepithelial neoplasia(or intraepithelial carcinoma) = pTis (in situ cancer)
- High-grade
  Intraepithelial neoplasia
  (or intraepithelial
  carcinoma) and
  intramucosal carcinoma
  = pTis (in situ cancer)

#### Colorectal cancer and the pathologist

- Diagnostic biopsies
- Surgical specimens
- Polypectomy
- Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEM)
  - Surgical « conservative » technique for small rectal lesions, applied more commonly because of less morbidity.

# Colorectal cancer and the pathologist

- Polypectomy
- Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEM)

## RISK ASSESSMENT FOR RESIDUAL TUMOR

# Colorectal cancer and the pathologist

- Risk assessment depends
  - Upon the patient

Upon the specimen

## Young active male (?)



Elderly person







Elderly sexually active male

### What about the specimen?

Handling the specimen

Histology

### Handling the specimen

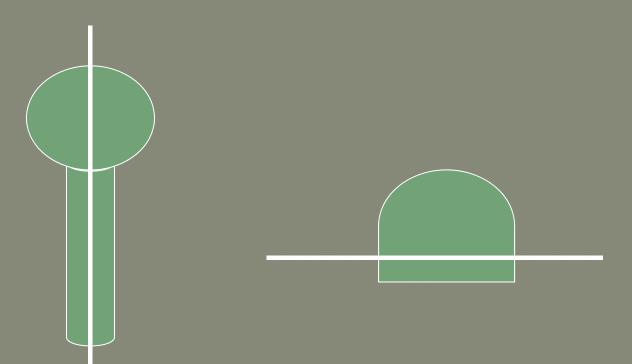
Orientation

Cutting

### Orientation

needle Stalked lesion

**Sessile lesion** 

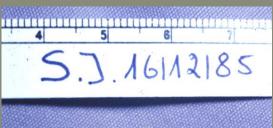


#### Orientation

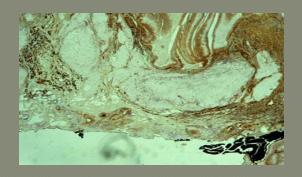




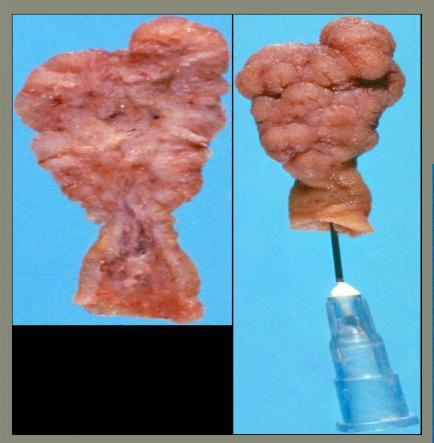




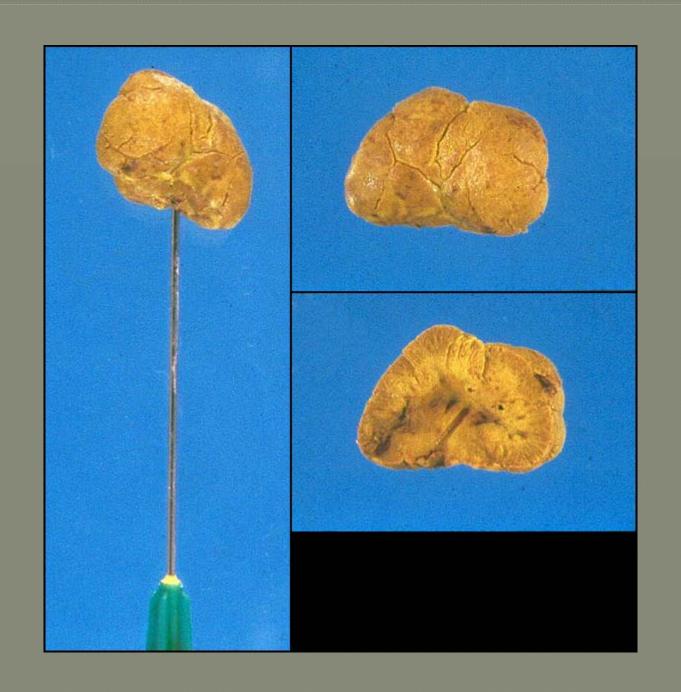




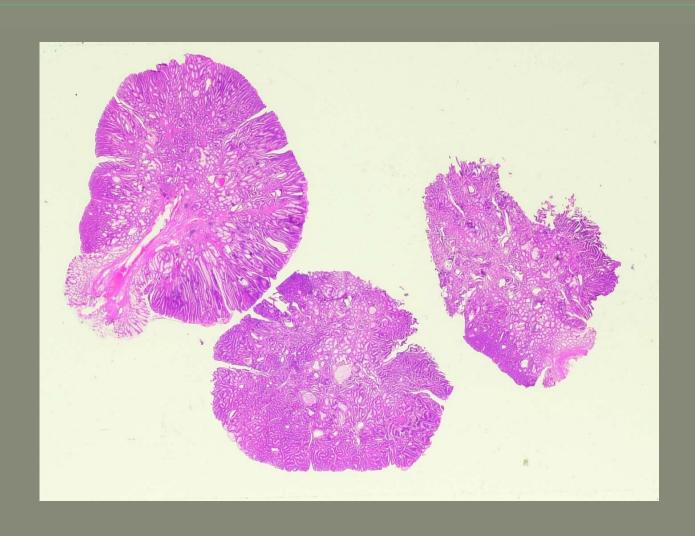
Sessile lesion







### Cutting



### TEM





## Histology

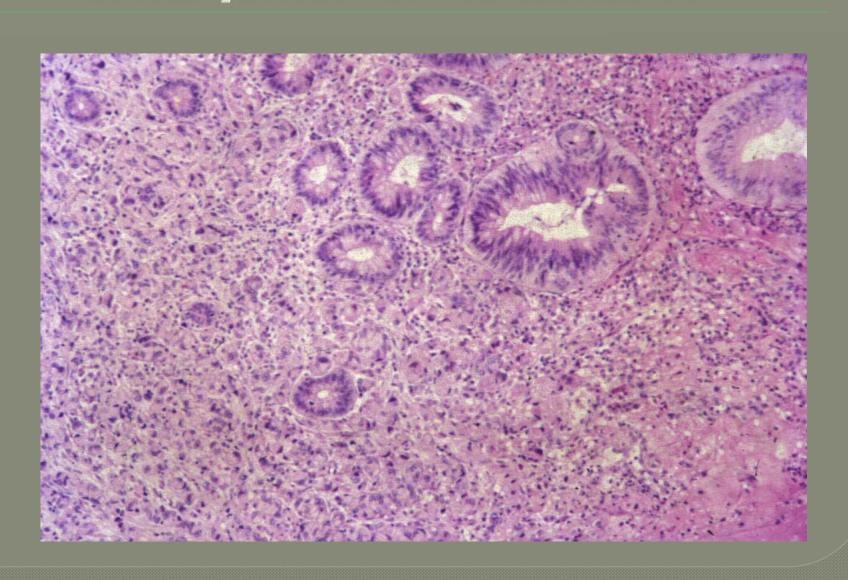
# Risk factors and adverse outcome

Author	Number of cases	Adverse outcome
Colacchio 1981	24	6 ( <b>LN</b> )
Lipper 1983	51	2 (1 residual)
Haggitt 1985	64	8 (4=LN)
Cranley 1986	38	10 (3=LN)
Richards 1987	80	10 (6=LN)
Kikuchi 1995	182	21 (13= <b>LN</b> )
Cooper 1995	140	16 (13= <b>LN</b> )
<b>Ueno 2004</b>	292	50 (33= <b>LN</b> )

## Risk factors for residual tumor

- Tumor grade Poor differentiation
- Vascular invasion
- Positive section margin
- Budding (solitary cells or small groups of cells < 5)
- Haggitt's classification : width and depth of submucosal invasion

# 450143 Poorly differentiated CRC



By convention, signet-ring cell carcinomas, small cell carcinomas, and undifferentiated carcinomas are high grade

High grade: Less than 50% gland formation

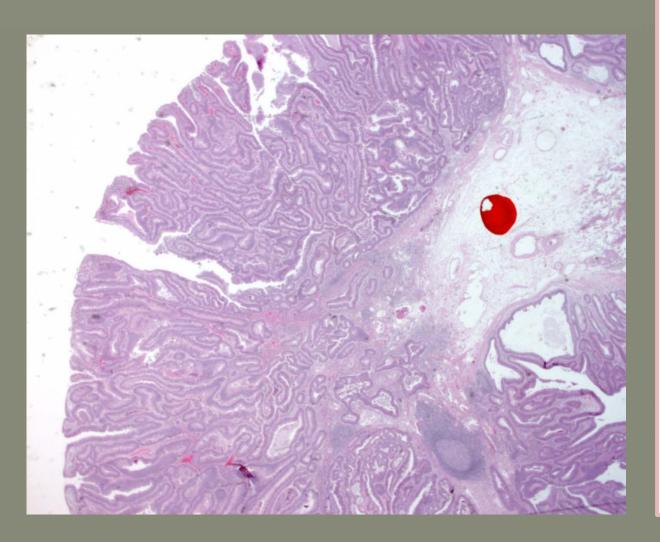
High grade (Grade III) defined by the least differentiated area

1 II Unassessable Rectum Subtotal colectomy	Residual carcinoma	
2 II 0 Sigmoid colon Subtotal colectomy	Residual cammoma	
3 II 0 Rectum Subtotal colectomy	Residual carcinoma	
4 III 0 Rectum Subtotal colectomy	Residual carcinoma	
5 tl 0 Rectum Subtotal colectomy	Residual carcinoma	
6 II < 2 Rectum Subtotal colectomy	Residual carcinoma	
7 il 0 Rectum Subtotal colectomy	No residual carcinoma, metastasis, died of disease	
8 II 0 Rectum Local radiation	Recurrence, metastasis, died of disease	
9 III 0 Rectum Local radiation	Metastasis, died of disease	
10 II < 2 Rectum Local radiation	Metastasis, died of disease	
11 ill 0 Sigmoid colon Subtotal colectomy	No	
12 II 0 Sigmoid colon Subtotal colectomy	No	
13 III 0 Rectum Subtotal colectomy	No	
14 II <2 Colon Subtotal colectomy	No	
15 I 0 Rectum Subtotal colectomy	No	
16 I 0 Colon Subtotal colectomy	No	
17 II 0 Sigmoid colon Subtotal colectomy	No	
18 II < 2 Rectum Subtotal colectomy	No	
19 II < 2 Sigmoid colon Subtotal colectomy	No -Patient nr	
20 III > 2 Rectum Subtotal colectomy	No	
21 III > 2 Sigmoid colon Subtotal colectomy	No -Tumor grade	
22 I < 2 Sigmoid colon Subtotal colectomy	- Section margin	
23 II Unassessable Sigmoid colon Subtotal colectomy	No.	
24 I Unassessable Sigmoid colon Subtotal colectomy	No - Treatment	
25 II <2 Rectum Local radiation	No	
26 Ill > 2 Rectum Local radiation	No Volk e.a.	
27 I < 2 Sigmoid colon Polypectomy only	INO	
28 III < 2 Rectum Polypectomy only	No Gastroenterology 109;	
29 I 0 Sigmoid colon Polypectomy only	No 1995	
30 I 0 Colon Polypectomy only	No	



- Male Patient
- °1948
- Red blood loss per anum
- Polypectomy

#### Vascular invasion

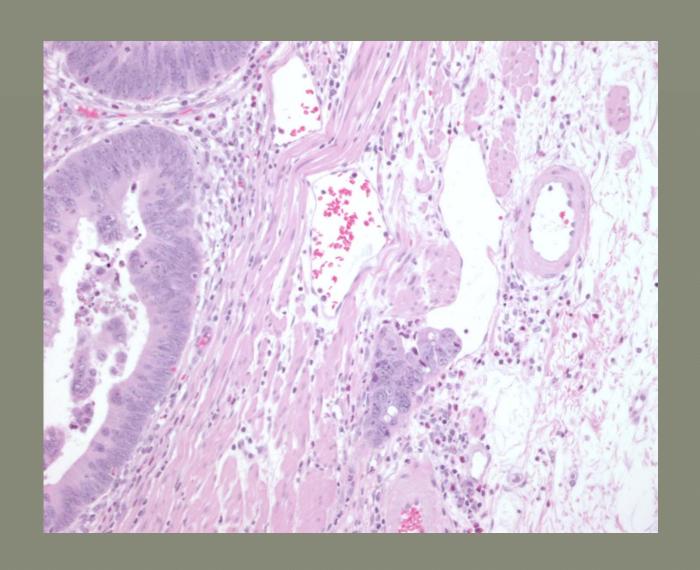


Low rectal lesion
Invades just into
the submucosa
but has LVI, which
is ?? still in the
musc mucosae.
Margin is clear
(wmm)

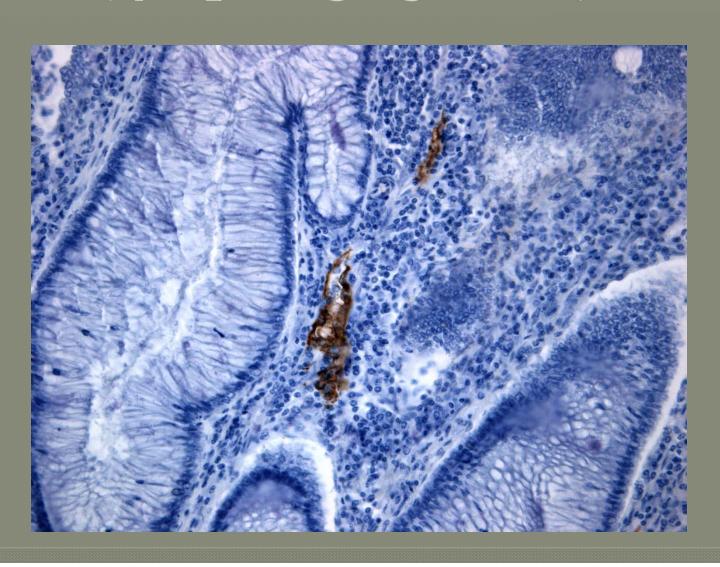
So Questions.

A) What is the likelihood of any nodes being involved

- B) Does she need her nodes removed?
- c) If this involves an APR
- d) If this involves a TME



## Lymphatics in the mucosa (lymphangiogenesis)



#### Comments (R. Odze)

nice and difficult clinical decision, here is my view if the patient is young and healthy, and the lvi is real(which it appears to be), then the guidelines say a resection should be strongly considered due to increased risk of lymph node mets, i believe the risk is anywhere from 10-20 percent, to me lvi is lvi regardless if its IN muscularis or BELOW it. They all connect! if it means an APR, its a BIG decision . If its a simple LAR, i think its an easier one. Of course, it all depends on the age and health and input and desire of the patient ultimately

#### Comments

(J. Greenson)

I reviewed a nearly identical case for a lawyer wherein the initial pathologist missed the LVI and the cancer penetrating the muscularis mucosae and stated that the polyp had been completely removed and was just an adenoma. Nothing further was done and the patient presented about 2 years later with a mass invading the sacrum and metastatic disease.

### Comments (G Williams)

- I would be more cautious about this. Is this genuine lymphatic invasion?
- invasive well differentiated tumour that seems to be miles from the resection margin. So the putative lymphatic invasion is the only indication for radical surgery, and the evidence for isolated lymphatic invasion being an adverse prognostic indicator in the literature is not very convincing

#### Intern Emerg Med. 2012

Clinical outcome of low- and high-risk malignant colorectal polyps: results of a population-based study and meta-analysis of the available literature.

Di Gregorio C, et al

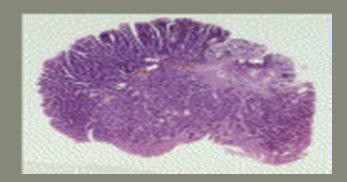
Fifty-five malignant polyps were classified as low-risk lesions and 50 as high-risk.

None of the patients at low-risk died of colorectal cancer.

Of the patients at high-risk, three died of cancer; all three cases showed lymphatic/vascular invasion.

# Negative Margin no consensus definition

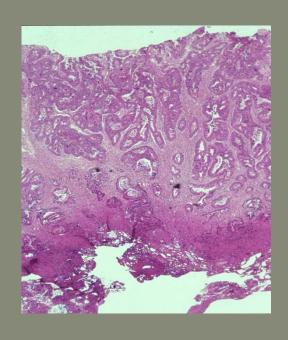
- not within the actual diathermy,
- more than one high-power field from the diathermy,
- greater than 1 mm from the margin, and
- more than 2 mm from the margin Polyp with negative margin

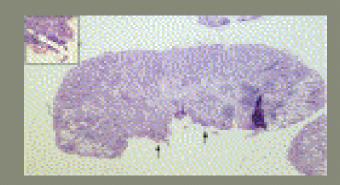


# Cancer near the margin No consensus definition

- cancer cells I mm or less from the transected margin,
- cancer cells 2 mm or less from the transected margin, and
- cancer within the diathermy and/or within one high-power field of the diathermy.

Cancer & Polyp with positive margin





### Tumor budding = activity

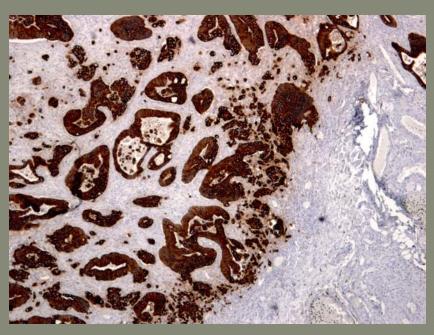
#### Definition

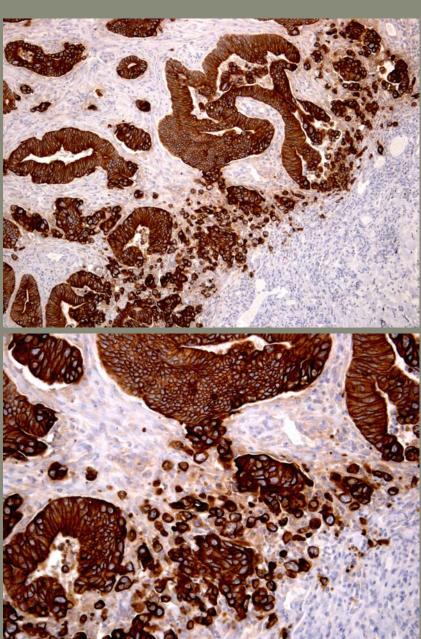
 Presence of isolated single cells or small clusters (up to four cells) scattered in the stroma at the invasive tumor margins

#### Scoring

- Field: X 20 objective lens
- Number counted in the field with the most frequent tumor budding
- Counts of 0-9: low-grade
- Counts of 10 or >10 : high grade

# Budding keratin stain

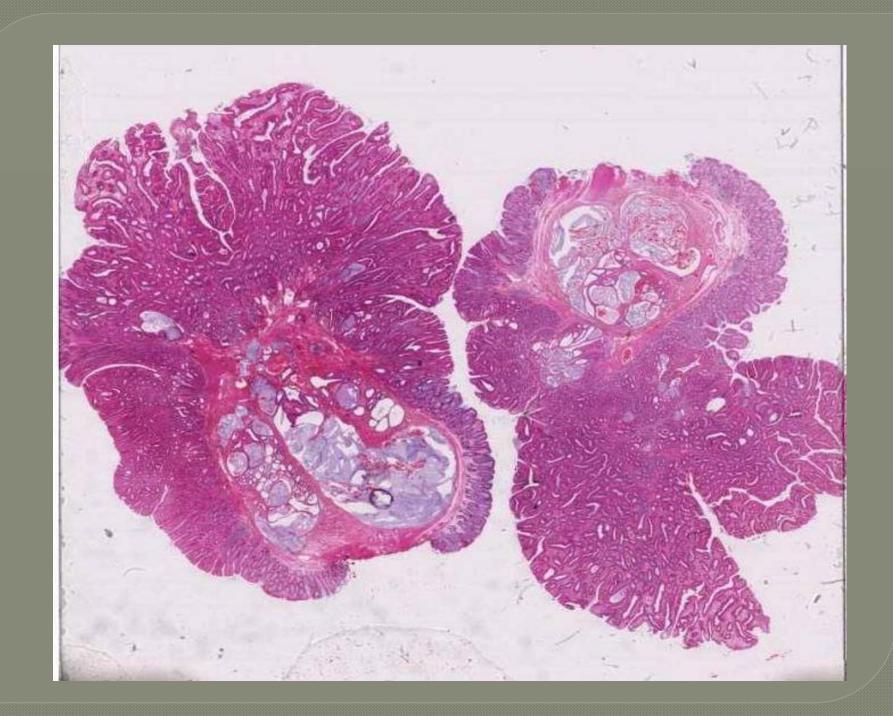




## Tumor budding is predictive of lymphatic involvement

Ogawa e a Scan J Gastroenterol 2009;44:605-14

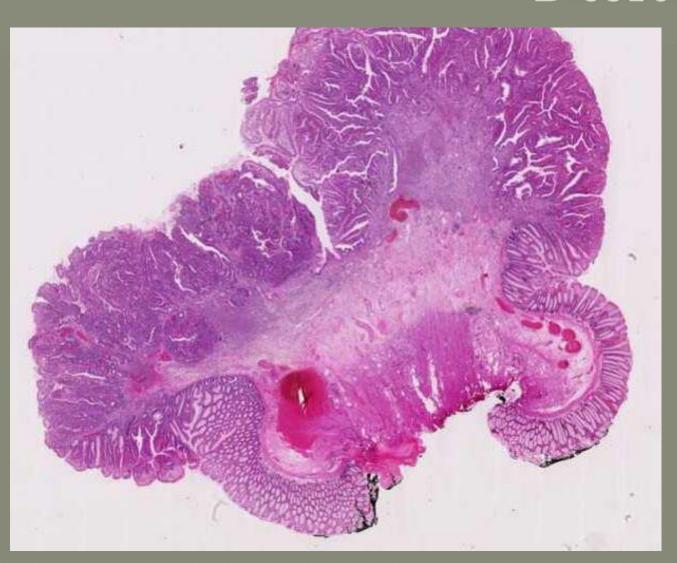
- Tumor budding is higher in nonpolypoid ca
- Positive link with lymph node metastasis and lymphatic involvement

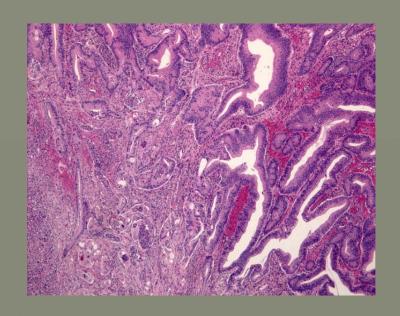


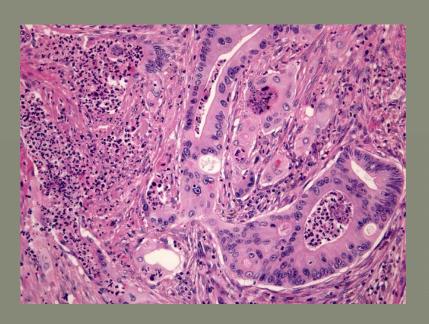
### Invasion or pseudo-invasion

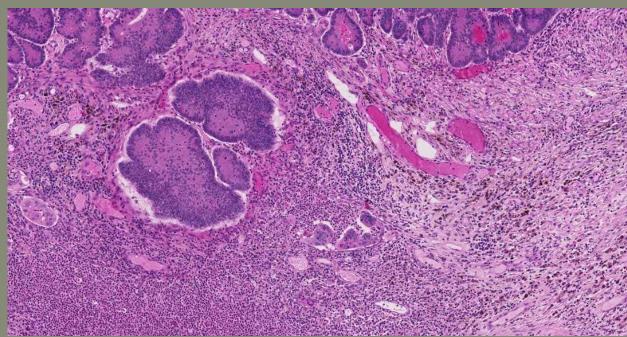
- Glandular pseudo-invasion occurs in 2.5-10% of adenomas
- Diff diagnosis
  - Presence of loosely arranged stroma (lamina propria) between the glands
  - Absence of desmoplastic reaction around the glands
  - Haemosiderin pigment
  - Smooth muscle cells
  - Absence of cytologic and architectural features of high-grade intraepithelial neoplasia.

#### **B-657099**







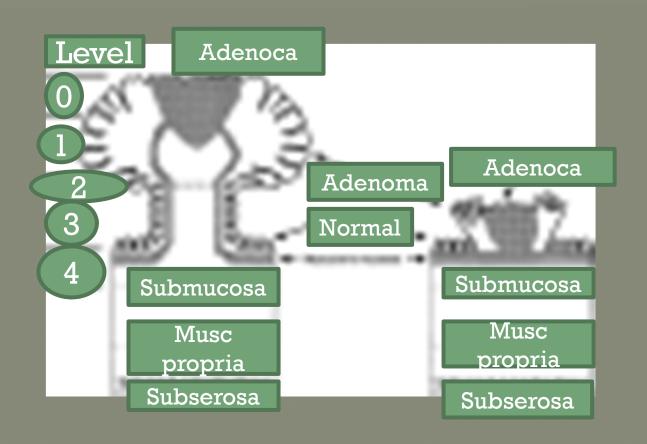


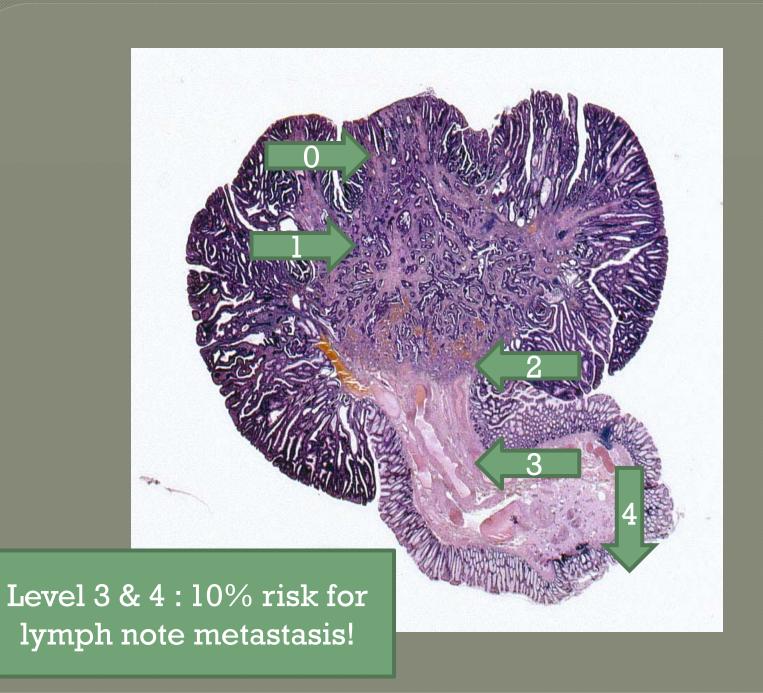
### Haggitt's level of invasion

Cooper H, Pathology of the endoscopically removed malignant colorectal polyp Curr Diagn Pathol 2007; 13: 423-37

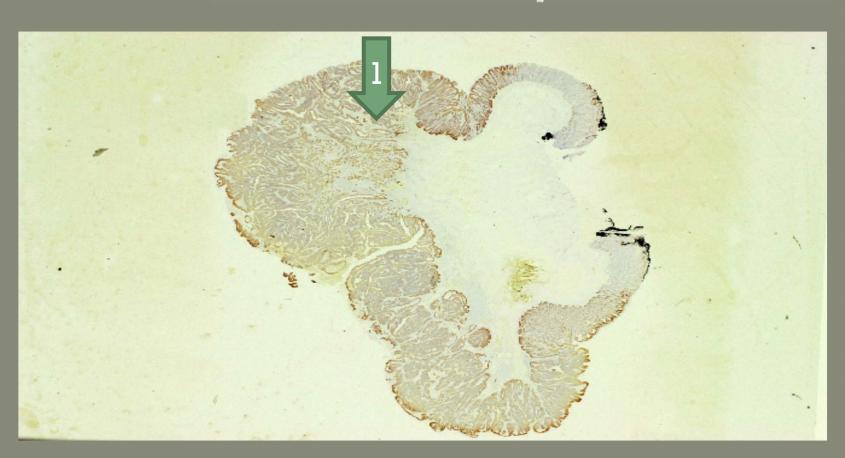
- Level 1: Carcinoma invading into the submucosa, but limited to the head of the polyp.
- Level 2: Carcinoma invading to the level of the neck (the junction of the head and stalk) of the adenoma.
- Level 3: Carcinoma invading any part of the stalk.
- Level 4: Carcinoma invading into the submucosa of the bowel wall below the stalk of the polyp but above the muscularis propria.

# Haggit's level of invasion



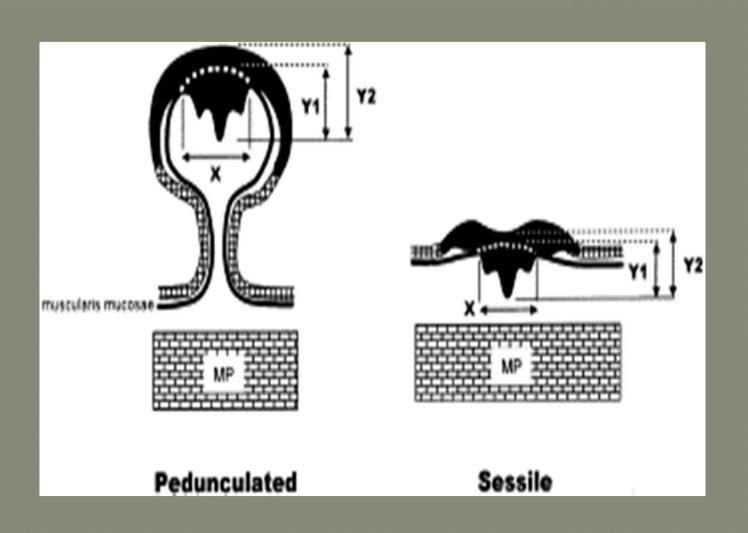


# Adenoma with area of invasive carcinoma/ malignant adenoma Colon/ cytokeratin stain



Measurement of extent of invasion in the submucosa (Ueno et al Gastroenterology 2004)

X: width of invasion; Y1: depth of invasion (when muscularis mucosae is present) Y2: depth of invasion (within muscularis mucosae)



#### TEM & Early colorectal carcinoma Risk factors

- Maximum diameter (in mm)
  - Local recurrence rates at 3 years for tumors 3 cm in size or smaller are significantly lower than for tumors larger than 3 cm (16 vs. 39%; P < 0.03).
- Depth of submucosal invasion

Sml superficial third

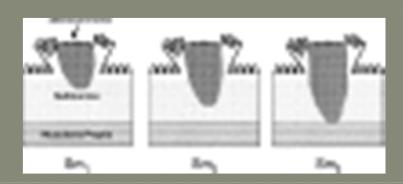
Sm2 middle third

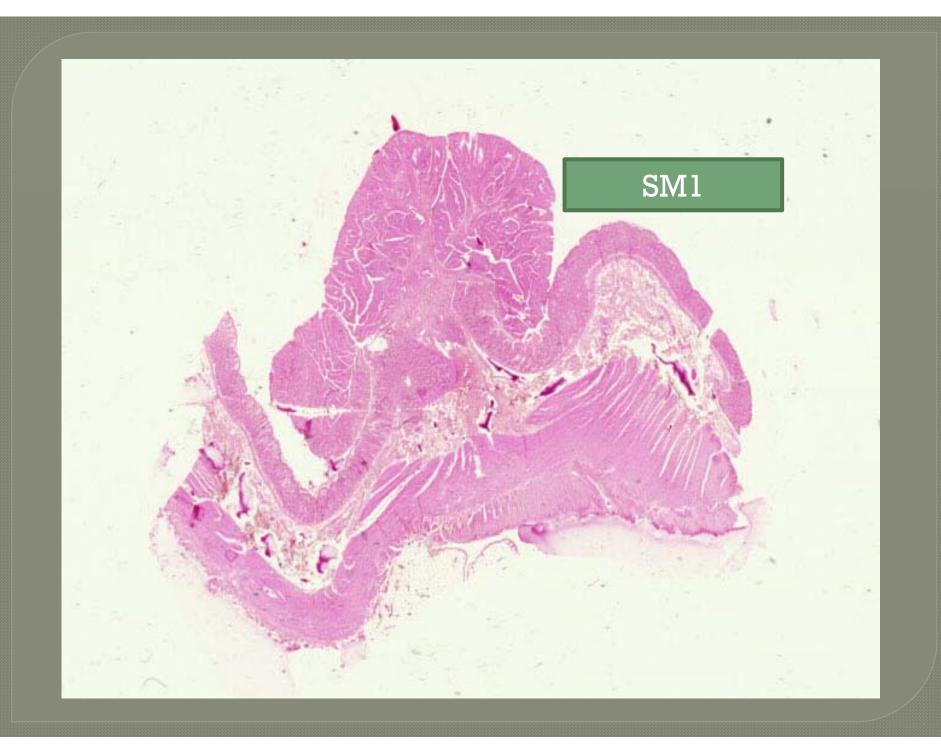
Sm3 deep third

< 0.5mm

0.5 - 1 mm

> 1 mm (1000 μm)





#### Kikuchi e.a. Dis Col Rectum 1995

After endoscopic polypectomy or local resection, 4 patients showed local recurrence and 13 patients showed lymph node metastasis.

None of these 17 patients had sm1 disease.

The level of invasion, configuration, and location were significant risk factors for development of lymph node metastasis or local recurrence (P < 0.05), but lymphovascular invasion, histologic grade, and diameter were not risk factors.

Comparison of various risk factors with outcome Groups Risk factors (N) N Adverse outcome Odds ratio (95% CI) p Value (Netzer e.a. Gut 1998)

† factor important in combination with others

Polyp shape: †Sessile *v pendunculated 19 v 51 10 v 9 8.3* (2.1 to 34.8) < 0.001

Polypectomy: Incomplete *v complete 8 v 62* 6 *v 10* **15.6** (2.2 to 169) 0.001

\*Lymphatic invasion †Present *v not present 6 v 56 4 v 6* **16.7** (1.8 to 204) 0.005

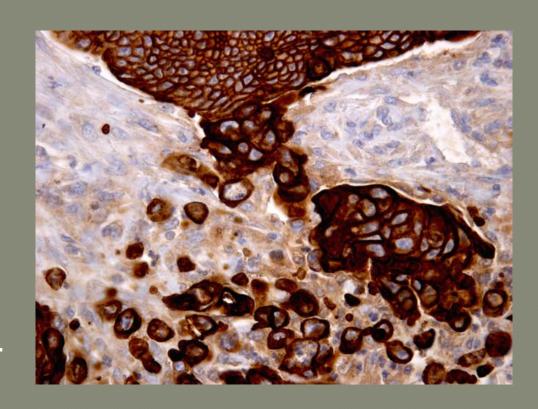
\*Venous invasion †Present *v not present 5 v 57* 2 *v 8* 4.1 (0.3 to 40.7) 0.18

\*Grade III cancer †Present v not present 5 v 57 2 v 57 4.1 (0.3 to 40.7) 0.18

\*Polypoid cancer †Present v not present 6 v 56 3 v 7 7 (0.7 to 60.6) 0.048 Risk categories High risk v low risk 38 v 32 16 v 0 Infinite (5 to infinite) < 0.001

#### Risk factors for residual tumor Ueno et al Gastroenterology 2004; 127

- Absence of unfavorable tumor grade
- Absence of vascular invasion
- Absence of tumor budding (sprouting)
- Absence of extensive submucosal invasion



### Early colorectal carcinoma Risk factors (Inoue 2004)

- Correlation with nodal involvement
  - Poor tumor grade
  - Vascular invasion (venous & lymphatic)
  - Tumor budding
- Absence of these parameters : low risk

Coagulation involving tumor

#### TEM Low risk

- Size < 3 cm
- Invasion limited to sml (recurrence rate 0)
  - Sm2: recurrence rate 17%/sm3:30%
- No lymphatic invasion
- Additional surgery needed for

Positive vertical margins at the site of submucosal invasion

Depth of submucosal invasion greater than 1000  $\mu m$ 

Vascular or lymphatic invasion

Poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma, signet ring cell carcinoma, or

mucinous carcinoma

High-grade tumor budding

## SURGICAL PATHOLOGY CANCER CASE SUMMARY (CHECKLIST)

Colon and Rectum: Excisional Biopsy (Polypectomy) Select a Single Response Unless Otherwise Indicated

\* Data elements with

asterisks are not required. However, these elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.

Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2009 October; 133(10): 1539-1551.

*Polyp Size
* Greatest dimension: cm
* Additional dimensions: × cm
* Cannot be determined (see Comment)
*Polyp Configuration
* Pedunculated with stalk
* Stalk length: cm
* Sessile
Size of Invasive Carcinoma
Greatest dimension: cm
* Additional dimensions: × cm
Cannot be determined (see Comment)

Histologic Type (note B)
Adenocarcinoma
Mucinous adenocarcinoma
Signet-ring cell carcinoma
Small cell carcinoma
Squamous cell carcinoma
Adenosquamous carcinoma
Medullary carcinoma
Undifferentiated carcinoma
Other (specify):
Carcinoma, type cannot be determined
Histologic Grade (note C)
Not applicable
Cannot be determined
Low grade (well differentiated to moderately
differentiated)
High grade (poorly differentiated to undifferentiated)

<b>Microscopic Tumor Extension (note D)</b>
Cannot be determined
Invasion (deepest):
Lamina propria
Muscularis mucosae
Submucosa
Muscularis propria
Margins (select all that apply)
Deep Margin (Stalk Margin)
Cannot be assessed
Uninvolved by invasive carcinoma
Distance of invasive carcinoma from
margin: mm
Involved by invasive carcinoma
Mucosal/Lateral Margin
Not applicable
Cannot be assessed
Uninvolved by invasive carcinoma
Involved by invasive carcinoma
Involved by adenoma

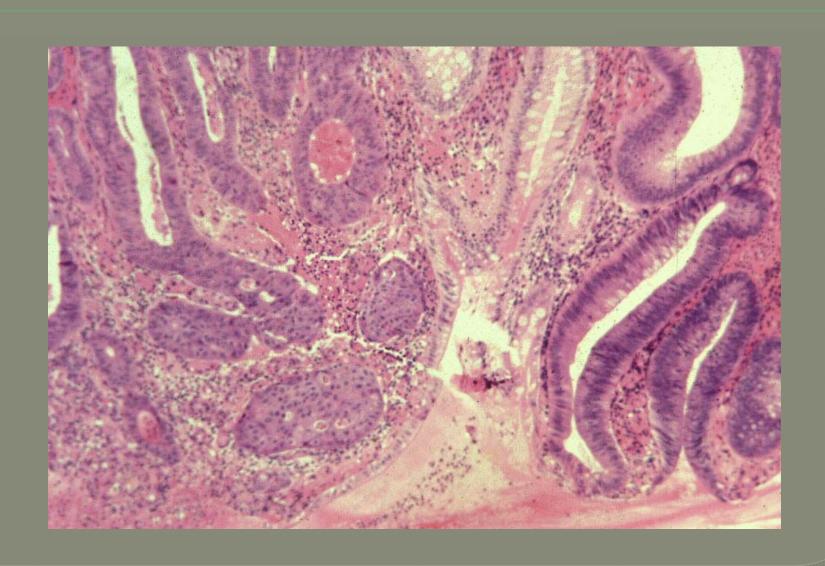
L	ymph-Vascular Invasion (notes D and
E	
	Not identified
	Present
	Indeterminate
*r	Type of Polyp in Which Invasive
C	arcinoma Arose (note F)
*	Tubular adenoma
*	Villous adenoma
*	Tubulovillous adenoma
*	Traditional serrated adenoma
*	Sessile serrated adenoma
*	Hamartomatous polyp
*	Indeterminate

#### Conclusions

- There is a variety of precursor lesions
- Handling the specimen is important
- Risk factor analysis
  - Size
  - Tumor grade
  - Depth of invasion
    - Haggit's level
    - Submucosal invasion
  - Lymphovascular invasion
  - Budding
  - Margin
- Final conclusion (risk factors status of patient)



# 



# Colorectal neoplasia and treatment

- Intraepithelial neoplasia: low-& high grade polypoid and non-polypoid
  - Local endoscopic treatment
  - Follow-up (guidelines)
- Intramucosal carcinoma polypoid and non-polypoid
  - Local endoscopic treatment
  - Follow-up
- Submucosal carcinoma Early colorectal carcinoma
  - Local endoscopic treatment
  - Follow-up or colon resection (depending on histology)

# Early colorectal carcinoma

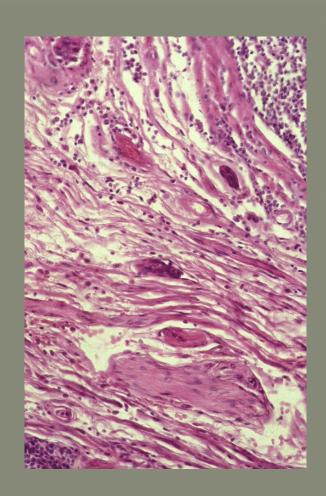
- Endoscopic resection
- Histopathological evaluation
  - Detection of risk factors for adverse outcome (presence of residual carcinoma in the bowel wall or in regional lymph nodes) necessitating subsequent colon resection

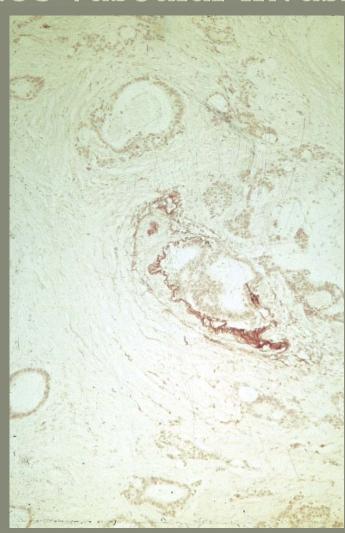
# Early colorectal carcinoma Risk factors (Haggitt 1985)

- Level of invasion
  - 0 = mucosa
  - 2 = neck
  - 4 = submucosa
- Grading
- Vascular invasion
- Carcinoma at or close < 1 mm from the resection margin

- l = head of polyp
- 3 = stalk

# CRC: 603160/4 lymphatic invasion 650438 Vascular invasion





#### Conclusion

- Intraepithelial neoplasia is the equivalent of dysplasia and the preferable terminology
- Early colorectal cancer is limited to the submucosa and not beyond
- Early colorectal cancer can be treated with curative resection (EMR or surgery)
- Endoscopic mucosal resection specimens should be handled properly
- Risk factors for adverse outcome are poor grade; vascular involvement; tumor budding and coagulation involving tumor

# Inflammatory lesion 34yr old Cambodian male

