

Referral Support Service

General Surgery

GS03

Colorectal surveillance for patients at high risk of colorectal cancer and those with significant family history.

Definition

HIGH RISK – warrants immediate referral to colorectal surgeon

1. HNPCC (Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colon Cancer)
 - i. Defects in mismatch repair genes leading to increased survival of cells with mutated DNA
 - ii. Mutations result in increased prevalence of colonic carcinoma plus endometrium, ovarian, stomach, upper urothelial tract and biliary tree cancers.
 - iii. Suspect in patients with 3 or more First degree relatives with 2 generations involved and one cancer diagnosed below the age of 50
2. FAP (Familial Adenomatous Polyposis)
 - i. Defect in FAP gene, one of the key mutations in the multi-hit cascade of a cell as it progresses from normal to colorectal cancer cell.
 - ii. Suspect in any patient with first degree relative with FAP or other genetic colorectal cancer condition.
3. Patients with UC or Crohn's colitis for >10 years

MODERATE RISK – refer to genetic counseling service in Leeds any patient with:

1. First degree relative colorectal cancer <50 yrs old
2. 2 First degree relatives with colorectal cancer at any age

Exclude Red Flag Symptoms

Refer as 2 week-wait those patients with:

- Definite palpable right sided abdominal mass probably involving large bowel
- Definite intraluminal (not pelvic) rectal mass. Perform PR to identify
- Unexplained iron deficiency anaemia with
 - Hb < 11g/dl in men
 - Hb < 10g/dl in non-menstruating women
- 40-60 yrs old with persistent (>6 weeks) rectal bleeding and a change in bowel habit to looser/more frequent stools
- 60 yrs or over with persistent (>6 weeks) rectal bleeding (in absence of anal symptoms) and/or change to looser/more frequent stools

Information to include in referral letter

- Include family history and findings if known
- Relevant past medical / surgical history
- Current regular medication
- BMI/ Smoking status

Patient Information Leaflets/ PDAs

<http://www.patient.co.uk/health/screening-for-colorectal-bowel-cancer>

References:

1. Guideline on colorectal screening and surveillance in moderate and high risk groups. Gut 2010. 59: 666