

## **INITIAL EXPERIENCE WITH A GENERAL POPULATION COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING CLINIC**

Daniel Brosseuk, Jean Oosthuizen, Melanie Pinchbeck  
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Recognition of the adenoma to carcinoma progression has established colorectal cancer as a preventable malignancy. Colorectal cancer is therefore an ideal malignancy for preventative screening given the presence of a benign precursor. There has been no previous concerted attempt at general population colorectal cancer screening using endoscopic investigation in the Province of British Columbia. We therefore set out to establish a pilot low risk endoscopic screening clinic with a view to analysis of our initial results.

**Method:** A retrospective chart review of all patients referred to a new low risk colorectal cancer endoscopic screening clinic from October 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005. Those patients found to have adenomas or carcinomas were further analyzed regarding location of neoplasm and pathologic findings.

**Results:** 238 low risk patients attended the colorectal cancer screening clinics. Age range was 50-86 years. Male to female ratio was 159 to 79. 182 patients had flexible sigmoidoscopy as the initial screen, 8 patients had partial colonoscopy, and 48 patients had complete initial colonoscopy. 91 patients had polyps removed, of which 33 patients had adenomas, 3 had adenocarcinomas, 1 had a carcinoid, and the remaining had an assortment of non-neoplastic polyps. Of the 37 patients with neoplasms, 26 were proximal to the splenic flexure, 3 were distal, and 4 patients had lesions proximal and distal to the flexure. 14 of the 37 patients had complete colonoscopy at initial procedure and thus far 16 patients have had completion colonoscopies, of which 8 patients had further neoplasms identified beyond the splenic flexure. All 3 patients with carcinoma had early tumors resected with curative intent with negative margins and negative nodes.

**Conclusion:** Initial experience with a low risk general population colorectal cancer endoscopic screening clinic yielded 16% of patients with neoplasms and 1.3% had curable cancers resected.