

endoscopic modality but 75% had anal pathology including haemorrhoids, fissures, skin tags or prolapse. In patients 30–39 yrs, two had rectal tumours (1.1%) and twelve had adenomatous polyps (6.6%), five of these being high risk polyps (2.7%). There were no tumours in patients 40–49 yrs but 23 had adenomatous polyps (13.0%), eleven of these being high risk (6.2%). In the  $\geq 50$  yrs comparison group, ten had colorectal tumours (3.5%) and 58 had adenomatous polyps (20.6%), 24 of these being high risk (8.5%). Colonoscopy overall comparatively had a much higher pick up rate than limited colonoscopy in all age groups. For  $< 50$  yrs colonoscopy had an adenomatous polyp identification rate of 14.7% compared to 7.0% on limited colonoscopy.  $\geq 50$  yrs was similar with colonoscopy having a rate of 24.6% compared with 10.8% on limited colonoscopy.

**Conclusions** This study concludes endoscopy would be necessary to evaluate low risk rectal bleeding in patients aged 30–49 yrs given the rate of significant pathology found, with colonoscopy being the preferred modality due to its much higher identification rate. Patients under 30 with low risk rectal bleeding could be examined in clinic for anal pathology. If no anal bleeding source is found further endoscopic investigation should be considered.

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#### STENTING FOR COLORECTAL CANCER: ARE WE ADHERING TO GUIDELINES? AN OVERVIEW AT A DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

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**Introduction** Colorectal stenting provides an option for treating and preventing BO, improving symptoms while occasionally bridging to surgery for colorectal cancer (CRC). NICE suggests self-expanding metal stent (SEMS) for the initial management of left sided CRC causing acute BO while ESGE advises SEMS as palliation tool in malignant obstruction or in patients with a high risk of postoperative mortality<sup>1</sup>. We audited patients with CRC treated with colonic stenting locally to investigate compliance with guidelines and outcomes.

**Methods** In this retrospective study, cases of colonic stenting for CRC over a 5 year period from 1/12/2014 to 1/12/2019 were identified via CIPTS (Delian Systems) an online database of endoscopic procedures. Further demographic and outcome measures including procedure complications, 30-day mortality, intervention location and stent type were collected.

**Results** Overall 40 patients underwent colonic stenting with Boston Scientific Wireflex stents performed by 3 operators. 42 cases occurred due to two cases of stent migration requiring revision. The mean population age was 77 years with a female preponderance (N=23,57.5%). Overall 30 day mortality was 10% (N=4) whilst 90 day survival was 70% (N=28). Three patients had stenting as bridge therapy to surgical intervention. Complication rates were low with only stent migration (N=2), wire perforation (N=1) and stent fracture (N=1, no reintervention needed) occurring. Therapy was predominantly for Sigmoid lesions (N=21) followed by Descending Colon (N=11) and Splenic Flexure (N=3).

**Conclusions** Colonic stenting is an effective palliation therapy for obstructing CRC. It is efficacious with low

complication rates. Mortality data is comparable to reported emergency surgical data. Survival to 90 days was promising considering many patients had significant comorbidities or metastatic disease when stented. Three cases were bridged to surgery with stenting for optimisation, though not recommended by ESGE. Post-operative and surgical costs were negated with one patient requiring admission post stenting. We acknowledge the low number of patients but offer evidence that our stenting service run by experienced operators is successful. We appreciate that, in general, stenting was compliant with current ESGE guidance.<sup>1</sup> We aim to further collate surgical CRC treatment data over this period and compare outcomes.

#### REFERENCES

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#### FMT-ASSOCIATED ALTERATIONS IN THE TCR REPERTOIRE OF PATIENTS WITH SEVERE OR FULMINANT CLOSTRIDIODES DIFFICILE INFECTION

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**Introduction** The adaptive immune system is important in modulating disease outcomes in *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI). Herein, we sought to characterize the TCR $\alpha$  and TCR $\beta$  repertoire in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) pre- and post-sequential Faecal Transplantation (FMT) for the treatment of patients with severe or fulminant CDI.

**Methods** Three patients were included in the study: 1 patient had fulminant CDI with shock while 2 patients had severe CDI. Each cycle of treatment consisted of daily FMT by enema for 3 days plus fidaxomicin 200 mg PO BID for 7–10 days. Samples were collected every 5 days over a period of 4 weeks, then at 6 weeks. Two patients had resolution of diarrhoea 2 weeks following 2 treatment cycles. Two different FMT donor samples were also analysed. Total RNA isolated from PBMCs was used for TCR library preparation using unique molecular identifiers (UMIs). Samples underwent targeted cDNA synthesis, using primers for the constant region of TCR $\alpha$  and TCR $\beta$  chains. Libraries were sequenced on Illumina Nova-Seq6000. Data pre-processing was conducted using the MIGEC and MIXCR software. We analysed repertoire clonality over time and temporal clonal abundance trajectories of specific TCRs during treatment.

**Results** The 2 FMT donors displayed lower clonality compared to all 3 CDI patients. Both treatment responders exhibited stable clonality profiles over time. In the non-responder (fulminant CDI), clonality was much higher pre-FMT and drastically decreased following the first cycle of FMT when