

screened. As might be expected from an older population a higher cancer detection rate was observed, although a higher drop-out rate was also seen, even in those fit to proceed to a diagnostic test.

If participation in over 75's continues to increase, particularly following the introduction of the new (more sensitive and easier to use) faecal immunochemical test in June 2019, it is likely to impact further on the already stretched colonoscopy services in England.

P295 COLONIC STENTING THROUGHOUT THE LARGE BOWEL: DURABILITY AND SURVIVAL IN PATIENTS WITH PALLIATIVE COLON CANCER

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10.1136/gutjnl-2020-bsgcampus.369

Introduction Colonic stenting for malignant obstruction is now established as the preferred treatment for patients without curative intent, and provides a lower rate of stoma formation. Guidelines in the UK (NICE) and Europe (ESGE) advocate stenting in left-sided obstruction, but neither recommend right-sided stenting due to limited data suggesting lower success and higher complication rates.

Methods We included all patients with malignant colonic obstruction who underwent attempted stenting, in a single-centre, over a 10-year period until 2019. Data was analysed for immediate clinical outcomes, the durability of event-free survival, occurrence of late complications, re-interventions (re-stenting, surgery) and death.

Results 118 palliative colonic stent procedures were undertaken for malignant large bowel obstruction, with 90 left-sided tumours and 28 right-sided obstructing tumours proximal to the splenic flexure. The median patient age was 74 years (27–94), and 56% were male. Clinical success was achieved in 87% and 70% respectively ($p=0.57$). Technical failures (L v R) resulted from stool interference (0 v 11% cases) and inability to cross the stricture with a wire (7.5 v 16% cases). There were no procedural complications. Comparing post-procedure complications during the life of the stent, these occurred more frequently with left-sided stents (25% v 5%, $p=0.04$). In these left-sided patients, there were 6 patients who required surgery with stoma for perforation, abscess formation, or re-obstruction. Stent migration occurred in 6 patients, 3 were successfully re-stented and 3 managed conservatively after CT identified migration. Stent occlusion in a further 7 cases was managed by re-stenting at a median of 228 days (177 to 498 days). The only complication in a right-sided patient was a stent obstruction on day 536 requiring surgery with stoma formation, but there were no other interventions required in this group. Comparing left and right-sided stents, there was no statistical difference in event-free survival of 151 v 257 days ($p=0.17$), and no difference in overall survival of 230 v 257 days ($p=0.64$).

Conclusions Clinical success after right-sided stenting appears lower for expected technical reasons. Durability of benefit and survival appears at least comparable to left-sided stenting. There was no evidence to support a higher complication rate and no re-intervention was required in the 12 months after stent insertion, compared to 1 in 5 in the left-sided group.

We believe stenting should be a management option for patients presenting with large bowel obstruction proximal to the splenic flexure with palliative intent.

P296 APPROPRIATENESS OF INVESTIGATIONS FOR IRON DEFICIENCY ANAEMIA ON A FAST-TRACK PATHWAY: A MULTI-SITE TRAINEE-LED AUDIT

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10.1136/gutjnl-2020-bsgcampus.370

Introduction There is increasing demand on services to investigate patients on 2-week wait cancer pathways. Iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) is a common reason for referral. We aimed to assess adherence to National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) suspected cancer guidelines and British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) guidelines for investigation of IDA.

Methods Retrospective audit across 10 sites in Yorkshire, by a trainee research network. We included patients referred on a suspected cancer pathway with IDA in November 2018. Data on referral indications and investigations were collected. Anonymised data was pooled for descriptive analysis. Categorical variables are expressed as percentages.

Results 508 patients were included: median age 72 years (range 24–97); 55% female. 48% were asymptomatic, 15% had weight loss, 13% change in bowel habit, 8% rectal bleeding, 6% dyspepsia, 2% dysphagia, 2% melaena and 1% abdominal mass. Post-menopausal status was poorly recorded.

Haemoglobin (Hb) was less than the laboratory reference range in 89%. 54% patients had low Hb and ferritin below the laboratory range (BSG definition for IDA). 64% and 44% patients had low Hb and ferritin $<30\mu\text{g/L}$ or ferritin $<15\mu\text{g/L}$, respectively; 2% patients had a ferritin 30–100 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and low iron indices and in 6%, Hb was normal with a low ferritin.

43% patients met NICE guidelines for 2-week referral with IDA (age >60 yrs, age 50–60 yrs with rectal bleeding and IDA, age <50 yrs with rectal bleeding and IDA). Of those not meeting criteria, 10% had other indications for referral (weight loss in 8%). Data regarding treatment with oral iron was not available.

Coeliac serology was tested in primary care in 10%, secondary care in 27% and not tested in 57%. 49% had duodenal biopsies performed (2% showed coeliac disease). 62% had both coeliac serology and duodenal biopsies performed. 82% did not undergo urine testing for blood or this was not recorded. Of those undergoing investigation, 72% had both upper and lower GI investigations. The most common reason for incomplete investigation was patient choice (33%), followed by patient fitness to undergo invasive procedures.

Conclusions NICE guidelines are poorly adhered to, although the laboratory definition of IDA is debatable. Few patients undergo serological testing for coeliac disease or urinalysis;