Some Aspects on the Role of the Pathologist in Colorectal Cancer

- Najib Haboubi MB Ch B, D Path, FRCPath
- Professor of Health Sciences, Liver and Gastrointestinal Pathology.
- Consultant and Head of Surgical Pathology
- Trafford Healthcare
- Manchester
- UK
In USA (280m) there are 150,000 new cases and 60,000 deaths per annum.
In UK (60m) there are 35,000 new cases and 16,000 deaths per annum.
New patterns in some parts of the world.
In India 6th commonest among female and 9th amongst male.
Accurate Pathological Reporting

- Confirm diagnosis.
- Inform prognosis.
- Plan treatment of individual patients.
- Audit pathology services.
- Evaluate and audit the quality of other services like radiology, surgery and oncology.
- Collect accurate data for cancer registration and epidemiology.
- Facilitate high quality research.

Plan service delivery.
Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT)

- Colorectal Surgeons
- Hepatobiliary (Thoracic) Surgeons.
- Radiologists.
- Surgical Pathologists.
- Medical Oncologists.
- Gastroenterologists
- Specialist Nurse.
- Stoma Nurse.
- Clinical geneticist / counsellor.
- Social worker.
- Clinical trials coordinator or research nurse.
- GP
- Dietician
MDT

- Takes place at regular intervals
- Encourages a more efficient and team working atmosphere.
- Have a consensus approach to treatment according to agreed protocols.
- Quick and appropriate referral pattern.
- Audit surgical treatment.
- Audit pathology reports.
GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF COLORECTAL CANCER (2001)

Issued by
The Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland
## 7. Detailed Guidelines - Histopathology Reporting

**Joint National Guidelines Minimum Data Set**

**Colorectal Cancer Histopathology Report**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Description</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metastatic Spread</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Site of tumour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum tumour diameter</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance of tumour to nearest margin (cut end)</td>
<td>No of lymph nodes examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of tumour perforation (pT4)</td>
<td>No of positive lymph nodes</td>
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<td>Apical node positive (Dukes C2)</td>
<td>Extramural vascular invasion</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For rectal tumours</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumour is [ ] above</td>
<td>Yes [ ] No [ ] the peritoneal reflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance from the dentate line</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Histology</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenocarcinoma [ ] Yes [ ] No</td>
<td>Adenoma(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to include mucinous and signet ring adenocarcinoma)</td>
<td>Synchronous carcinoma(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other [ ]</td>
<td>Synchronous carcinoma(s)</td>
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<td>Complete a separate form for each cancer</td>
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<td>If No, other</td>
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<td><strong>Differentiation by predominant area</strong></td>
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<td>Local Invasion</td>
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<tr>
<td>[ 1 ] Submucosa (pT1)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>[ 1 ] Muscularis propria (pT2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ 1 ] Beyond muscularis propria (pT3)</td>
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<td>[ 1 ] Tumour cells have breached the peritoneal surface or invaded adjacent organs (pT4)</td>
<td>Dukes</td>
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<td>Tumour involvement N/A Yes No</td>
<td>Dukes A (Growth limited to wall, nodes negative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doughnut [ ]</td>
<td>Dukes B (Growth beyond muscularis propria, nodes negative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margin (cut end) [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]</td>
<td>Dukes C1 (Nodes positive and apical node negative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>for rectal tumours [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]</td>
<td>Dukes C2 (Apical node positive)</td>
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<td>Circumferential margin involvement [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]</td>
<td>Histologically confirmed liver metastases [ ] [ ]</td>
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<td>Histological measurement from tumour to circumferential margin [ ] [ ] mm</td>
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<td>Signature</td>
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<td>Date / / / SICMED Codes / /</td>
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</table>
Evidence Based
Second Edition

- 2007
- Few important additions.
- www.rcpath.org
Surname __________________  Forenames __________________  Date of birth ________  Sex ______
Hospital __________________  Hospital No. __________________  NHS No ________
Date of receipt ______________  Date of reporting ______________  Report No ________
Pathologist _________________  Surgeon __________________
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<td>.......mm</td>
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</table>
Assessment of RM

- Longitudinal
- Circumferential / lateral / Radial / non peritonealised resection margin.
Minimum safe Longitudinal Margin

- 5
- 3
- 2
- 1
- $< 1\text{cm}$
Reappraisal of 5 cm rule of distal excision for carcinoma of rectum

Williams, Dixon and Johnston. Br.J.Surgery 1983
Conclusion

The application of the 5 cm rule of distal excision may cause patients with low rectal cancer to lose their anal sphincter unnecessarily.
Kirwan, Drumm, Hogan, Keohane


- 1 cm
Declining indication for APR resection in favour of AR

- Kirwan, O’Riordain and Waldron…..
- Br.J.Surg 1989
Karanjia, Schache, North and Heald

- ‘Close shave’ in anterior resection.
- Br.J.Surg. 1990
- $<1\text{ cm V }>1\text{ cm}$
Conclusion

Reduction of resection margins (provided TME and washout is properly performed) does not increase local recurrence or compromise survival.
Additions in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition (1)

- Documentation type of procedure.
- For rectal cancer, it is expected to have more AP than APR.
Audit

- AR 1670
- APR 746
- Hartman’s 299
- There is a trend of increase the AR over APR due to:
  - Better preoperative treatment
  - Better imaging modalities and
  - Better surgery. **Good surgeons should be able to undertake AR for tumours above 5cm from anal verge.**
Circumferential (CRM) / Lateral / Radial / Non Peritonealised Resection Margin (NPRM)
Circumferential resection margin Involvement (CRMI) 1mm or less

- High Local Recurrence.
- Low Survival.
- Poor Standard of Surgery.
- Aggressive Disease.
- Tumour Location.
- Male gender.
Addition to the 2nd edition (2)

- Grading of surgical plane of resection in rectal cancer.
- The continuous feedback to surgeons may lead to improve quality of surgery.
Macroscopic Evaluation of Rectal cancer Resection Specimens

- Clinical Significance of the Pathologist in Quality Control.
- 2 years follow up.
- Iris Nagtegaal et al
Macroscopic Grading of TME

- A (3) (Good). Complete. Smooth, no coning, defect >5 mm and regular CRM
- C (1) (Poor). Defects down to the Muscularis, conning, no bulk and irregular CRM
- B(2). Nearly complete. Defect present but Muscularis is not apparent (except at the insertion of LA) and irregular CRM.
## Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A&amp;B - good and acceptable</th>
<th>C- Poor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local Recurrence</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local recurrence and Distant Metastasis</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Year Survival</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
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</table>
Measurement of tumour beyond the muscularis propria recorded in mm.

This is to:

a/ facilitate audit of preoperative imaging of extramural spread as it is of importance in selecting patients of rectal cancer to choose a therapy arm.

b/ It has a prognostic implication for rectal cancer. 5mm or more is associated with adverse prognosis.
Addition to the 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition (4)

- Recording tumour involvement of the NPRM in colonic tumours (in addition to rectum) like the caecum. These patients may be selected for post operative adjuvant therapy.

Addition to the 2nd edition (5)

- Recording serosal (peritoneal surface) involvement.
- ‘Tumour cells visible either on the peritoneal surface or free in the peritoneal cavity carry bad prognosis’
Influence of local peritoneal involvement on pelvic recurrence and prognosis in rectal cancer.

Shepherd, Baxter and Love
Local Peritoneal Involvement

1. Detected in 25.8% (54/209) of cases.
2. Showed considerable prognostic disadvantage in curative and non curative cases.
3. May be an important factor in local recurrence of upper rectal cancers.
The Prognostic Importance of Peritoneal Involvement in Colonic Cancer: a Prospective Evaluation

- Shepherd et al Gastroenterology 1997
- Strong predictive value for local recurrence/persistent disease specially when there is mucinous differentiation.
Additions in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition (6)

- Recording of marked or complete tumour regression in patients with rectal cancer that have received adjuvant chemo / radiotherapy (CRT)
1895

XRT 1st

used
DEEP TISSUE TRAUMATISM FROM ROENTGEN RAY EXPOSURE.

By DAVID WALSH, M.D. EDIN.,
Physician, Western Skin Hospital, London, W.
For Rectal cancer

- Preoperative Chemoradiotherapy (CRT) is considered for T2-T3 / T4
Rationale for adjuvant CRT for Rectal Cancer

- Increases tissue sensitivity towards radiation.
- Radiation stops proliferation.
- Significant decrease in loco-regional recurrence AND overall survival.
Irradiation of Tumour Zone

- Tumour Tissue.
- Adjacent ‘normal’ tissue.
TARGET

- DNA
  - DIRECT
  - INDIRECT
- CYTOPLASM
DIRECT DAMAGE (DNA)

- SINGLE OR DOUBLE STRANDED CHROMOSOMAL BREAK
INDIRECT EFFECT

RADIOLYSIS OF CELLULAR WATER WITH FORMATION OF FREE RADICALS.
CELL CYCLE

- GO
- G1
- G2
- S
- M
Because different cells have different cell cycles

- Rapidly dividing cells are More Chemoradiosensitive
Turn over of cells in the gut

- Epithelial cells
- Endothelial
- Stromal
Radiation Therapy

Short Course
- 25Gys over 5 days in 5-10 fraction with the last fraction within 72 hours before surgery.
- Early stage.
- Not well patients.

Long Course
- 45-50 Gys over 5 weeks followed by surgery after at least 3 weeks from the last dose.
- Tethered, T3 and T4.
- Large.
- Anterior location
Short term preoperative radiotherapy interferes with the determination of pathological parameters in rectal cancer

- Decrease in T lymphocytes and neutrophils.
- Increase in fibroblasts.
- Decrease in no. of LN retrieval but not in +ve lymph nodes.
- No change in depth.
- Three folds decrease in local recurrence.
Long course CRT

- Improves staging (depth and lymph node status).
Patterns of morphologic alteration in residual rectal carcinoma following preoperative chemoradiation and their association with long term outcome

- J. shia et al (New York)
- Am J Surg Path
- 2004
66 T3 and T4 rectal Ca treated with RT with or without 5FU

- Marked fibrosis with or without prominent inflammation.
- Frequent nuclear atypia but without mitosis.
- Retention of the adenoma component in the presence of tumour regression within the wall.
Prognostic factors in CRC treated by preoperative radiotherapy and immediate surgery

- R. James, N. Haboubi, P. Schofield, M. Mellor, N. Salhab
- DCR 1991
Change in the grading and staging after RT

- Under stage.
- Over grade.
- Suggest: Any clinicopathological staging should record whether there is radiation or not.
Classifications of Regression

- Mandard: Cancer 1994, 73; 2680. (1-5)
- Dworak: Int CRD 1997, 12; 19. (0-4)
- Wheeler: DCR 2002, 45; 1051. (1-3)
- Ryan: Histopathol 2005, 47; 141. (1-3)
- PRINCIPLE

**Tumour Volume V Fibrosis.**
Discrepancy in Staging

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Worst Response</th>
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<td>Wheeler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>1</td>
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Pathological response following long-course neoadjuvant CRT for locally advanced rectal cancer

- 60 patients
- G1, G2, G3.
- none of the G1&2 had local recurrence after mean 22 months.
Prognostic Significance of Tumour Regression After Preoperative CRT for RC

- G 4 (Good) in 10.4% DFS 86%.
- G 2&3 DFS 75%
- G 0&1 (Bad) >10% DFS 63%
Non Cancerous Tissue
Prevalence of Toxicity

- 50% of solid malignancies will undergo RT.
- The data for radiation toxicity is poorly documented.
XRT Cervix , Bladder Prostate , Rectum

- May successfully downstage, control or eliminate the tumour
- Surrounding intestinal tissue may be injured
FACTORS INFLUENCING BIOLOGICAL RESPONSE

- Related to host and tissue.
- Related to therapy
Factors related to therapy

- Dose. High dose more toxic
- Field. Large field more toxic.
- Concomitant chemotherapy is more toxic.
- Post operative RT is more toxic than pre operative RT
MORPHOLOGY
Acute radiation colitis in patients treated with short term preoperative radiotherapy for rectal cancer

- Leupin et al (Switzerland)
- 2002
Radiation colitis

**Short Course**
- Sever mucosal inflammation.
- Prominent eosinophils.
- Crypt disarray
- Crypt epithelial damage.
- Nuclear abnormality
- Apoptosis of crypt epithelium.
- *Either clinically silent or quick recovery.*

**Long Course**
- These features are either absent or rarely detected.
The Light and Electron Microscopic Features of Early and Late Radiation-Induced Proctitis

Haboubi, Rowland, and Schofield

Am.J.of Gastro.

1988
ACUTE PHASE/EPITHELIAL

- Days.
- Eosinophilic infiltrate
- Megalanucleosis.
- Normal blood vessels
CAUTION
Acute phase radiation

-Appearances may resemble dysplasia
VASCULAR PHASE

Weeks
Appears after the epithelial phase.
FEATURES

- Narrowing by sub endothelial oedema
- Fibrin deposition
- On E/M there is endothelial cell necrosis and platelet thrombi formation
- Reversibility??
Late Phase

- Months/years
- Vascular component.
- Mesenchymal/ Stromal/fibrous.
- Irreversible.
Components of Late phase

Fibrous
Vascular
Epithelial
Late phase radiation

- Appearance may resemble Chronic IBD
LATENT INJURY

More subtle DNA injury responsible for:

- Mutation
- Teratogenic effect
- Carcinogenic effect
FLOW CYTOMETRIC DNA CHARACTERISATION OF RADIATION COLITIS - A PRELIMINARY STUDY

Pearson JM, Kumar S, Butterworth DM, Haboubi NY
Anti Cancer Research 1992
AIM

To study the DNA ploidy status in cases of acute and chronic phase reaction
MATERIAL

Six cases of acute (24 days)
Six cases of chronic (755 days)
Age and sex matched
Results

- None of the acute phases biopsies showed DNA aneuploidy despite the bizarre nuclear morphology.
- 2 out of the 6 chronic phase showed DNA aneuploidy. In both there is mild nuclear atypia.
The role of the pathologist in CRC

- Diagnostic.
- Therapeutic.
- Audit.
- Research
لا تلم كفي إذا السيف نبا
صح مني العزم و الدهر أبي
The effective management of CRC requires

- The involvement of the histopathologist at various stages of treatment pathway.
- Diagnostic.
- Therapeutic.
- Audit.
- Research.
Summary

- Don’t know how common, probably on the increase.
- Clinical and Pathological features are related to the phase (tissue type) injury.
- Satisfactory management should be in the hands of experienced team.
Time relation of complication to various presentations

- Acute proctitis (epithelial) 0-4 weeks
- Acute enteritis (epithelial) 0-4 weeks
- Rectal bleeding (vascular) 4-12 months
- Chronic abscess (stromal) 9-15 months
- Fistula (stromal) 18-24 months
- Stricture (stromal) 2-20 years
Components of Late phase

Fibrous

Vascular

Epithelial
Radiation induced cytochrome c release causes loss of rat colonic fluid absorption by damage to crypts and pericryptal myofibroblasts

- Thiagarajan, Gourmelon, Griffiths, Lebrun, Naftalin, Pedly (Kings, France)
- Gut 2000
Total body radiation of mice

- Mitochondrial damage.
- Loss of crypt fluid absorption and increased permeability coincide with decreased intercellular adhesion crypt epithelial cells and loss of pericryptal sheath barrier function.
Predicting local recurrence of carcinoma of the rectum after preoperative radiotherapy and surgery

- D.Jones, Zaloudik, Roger James, N. Haboubi, M. Moore, P. Schofield
Prospective randomised study

- Tethered rectal cancer
- 97 surgery alone
- 89 preoperative RT and Surgery
- DNA ploidy by flowcytometry.
Results

- Aneuploidy was seen in 62% of the surgery alone group vs 33% of the combined group.
The surgery of today is based on Pathology.

Unless he build on that solid foundation, the surgeon is no better than a hewer of flesh and a drawer of blood.

William Boyd. Surgical pathology 1925
Factors related to host

- Diabetes
- Hypertension.
- Arterial disease
- Smoking.
Factors related to therapy

- Dose.
- Field.
- Concomitant chemotherapy.
- Previous surgery.
Prior abdominal or pelvic surgery

- Adhesions
- Prolapse into abnormal positions
- Entrapment of intestinal loops in the field.
ACUTE PHASE/L.M.

- Eosinophilic infiltrate
- Megalanucleosis and abnormal mitotic figures.
- Normal blood vessels
Turn over of cells in the gut

- Epithelial cells
- Endothelial
- Stromal / fibrous cells
Early Phase

- Nuclear and cytoplasmic changes are mostly reversible.
Adjuvant therapy

- Lymph nodes involvement (if age and comorbidity allows).
- No LN involvements but with other adverse pathological features like
  a/ perforation
  b/ extramural venous invasion
  c/ serosal involvement
  d/ incomplete resection
  e/ Involved CRM in rectal cancer.
OUTCOME of Radiation Damage

- Limited: Complete repair.
- Extensive: Partial or no repair inhibition of mitosis or promotion of apoptosis
Fig. 5.18. Microradiographs comparing normal colonic mucosa (top) with that in RBD (bottom). The latter shows telangiectasia (arrows) of mucosal capillaries. (TS ×50)
Gross Description
Metastatic Spread
Site of tumour ________________________________
Maximum tumour diameter _______________________
Distance of tumour to nearer margin (cut end) ___
Presence of tumour perforation (pT4) [   ] Yes [   ] No
Histology
Type
Adenocarcinoma [ ] Yes [ ] No
(to include mucinous and signet ring adenocarcinomas)

If No, other ________________________________

Differentiation by predominant area
[ ] Well/moderate [ ] Poor
Topics

- Resection Margins.
- Grading Total Mesorectal Excision (TME).
- Recording distance of mesorectal extension.
- Recording of tumour extension to Non Peritonealised Resection Margin (NPRM).
- Recording Peritoneal involvement.
- Recording of Tumour Regression Grade.
- *Radiation Bowel Disease.*
‘It is only necessary to examine the margins histologically if tumour extends macroscopically to within 30mm of one end’
Exceptions

- Signet ring
- Small cell
- Undifferentiated
- Extensive lymphatic or vascular permeation.
High quality reporting

- Confirms that radical surgery was necessary, place the patient in an accurate prognosis category and if there is a need for post operative adjuvant therapy.
- Facilitate improvement of quality of rectal surgery. Good surgery produce less recurrence rate.
Factors that influence adequacy of TME for rectal cancer

- S. Jaeyarajah et al
- CRD 2007
- No relation between the mesorectal scoring and local recurrence rate.
- Male gender & AR are relevant factors.
Aim of CRT

- Tumour regression.
- Protect the non tumourus tissue.
Classifications of Regression Grades

- Mandard. Cancer 1994,73;2680. (1-5)
- Dworak Int CRD 1997,12;19. (0-4)
- Wheeler DCR 2002,45;1051. (1-3)
- Ryan Histopathol 2005,47;141. (1-3)
Tumour Regression

- Quantification of histologic regression of rectal cancer after irradiation (chemo).
- 3 stages instead of the ‘traditional’ 5 stage of Mandard et al. (Cancer 1994; 73:2680-2686).
Regression Grades

- **G1** = Good response. Either no tumour or only microscopic foci of carcinoma.
- **G2** = Marked fibrosis + Macroscopic tumour still visible.
- **G3** = Bad response. Little fibrosis + Abundant macroscopic disease