

Association Between The Findings of The Proximal and Distal Colon Detected by Colonoscopy: Perspective of The Use of Sigmoidoscopy for Colorectal Cancer Screening

YAMANAKA, J.C. (Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil); COSTA, M.C. (Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil); FAVA, G. (Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil); OLIVEIRA, C.Z. (Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil), GUIMARAES, D.P. (Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil);

BACKGROUND: Colorectal cancer is the third most frequent cancer in men and the second in women, in Brazil. Sigmoidoscopy is currently one of the colorectal cancer screening test followed by colonoscopy in positive cases. However, it has the disadvantage of not detecting lesions in the proximal colon in case the distal colon is normal or has hyperplastic polyps. In this context, it is important to investigate whether there is an association between the presence of advanced lesions in the proximal colon and the distal colon findings. **HYPOTHESIS:** To investigate the association between the presence of lesions in the proximal colon and the one in the distal colon. **METHODS:** A retrospective study of patients aged ≥ 50 years who underwent diagnostic colonoscopy at Barretos Cancer Hospital by means of an active search in the report program (ENDOX). Patients with operated colon, normal or incomplete colonoscopy and hereditary syndromes associated with colorectal cancer were excluded. Demographic data, colonoscopic and histopathological findings and the association between the distal and proximal findings were analyzed. A significance level of 0.05 was considered. **RESULTS:** From 661 patients who underwent diagnostic colonoscopy between 2011 and 2014, a total of 339 patients met the inclusion criteria, with 58.1% male. The mean age was 63.75 years (SD: 8.95). A total of 864 lesions [a mean of 2.55 (SD: 2.03) per patient] was detected, with 52.9% located in the distal colon, 73.6% classified as polypoid and 67.8% as adenoma. Among the adenomas, 23.55% were advanced adenoma. Hyperplastic polyps (71.1%) and cancer (79.8%) were more frequent in the distal colon ($p < 0.001$). For the association analysis between the proximal and the distal findings, the most advanced lesion of each patient was considered. Among all patients, 64.6% had some lesion in the proximal colon (cancer in 4.4%, advanced adenoma in 12.7%, non-advanced adenoma in 39.8%, sessile serrated adenoma in 1.2% and hyperplastic polyps in 6.5%) and 35.4% had no lesion. Regarding the distal colon, 75.8% had some lesion (cancer in 20.6%, advanced adenoma in 13.0%, non-advanced adenoma in 27.1%, sessile serrated adenoma in 0.3% and hyperplastic polyps in 14.7%) and 24.2% had no lesion. Among 82 patients without distal lesion, 100.0% showed some lesion in the proximal colon ($p < 0.001$), and cancer appeared in 8 (9.8%) and advanced adenoma was present in 10 (12.2%) as the most advanced lesion ($p < 0.001$). **CONCLUSION:** The frequency of 22.0% of advanced adenoma and cancer in the proximal colon in symptomatic patients with normal distal colon suggests that the sigmoidoscopy should be further investigated as a screening method in asymptomatic population.