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Title: Descriptive Epidemiological Study of Colorectal Cancer Patients at a Tertiary Hospital in North Jordan

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Introduction and Aim

Colorectal cancer (CRC) incidences have been steadily on the rise and is one of the common cancers worldwide; it accounted for 10.7% of all new cancer incidences in 2016 in Jordan. We aim to describe epidemiological, demographical, and clinical characteristics of CRC in North Jordan.

Methods

A single-center retrospective review of all patients diagnosed with CRC between 2003 and 2019 at King Abdullah University Hospital (KAUH) in Irbid, North of Jordan was performed. Clinical and demographical data were extracted from the patients' medical records. Patients were stratified by age groups into younger (≤ 50) and older (> 50), and by tumor location into right colon (cecum, ascending, transverse), left colon (descending, sigmoid), and rectum. Patients with multifocal tumors were excluded.

Results

514 CRC cases were identified. Males constituted 55.8% of the patients. The median age upon diagnosis was 59 years (IQR 49-68). Stage 4 was the most frequent among our sample (157/454; 34.58%) with most patients having grade 2 tumors (397/472; 84.1%) and invasive adenocarcinoma subtype (421/514; 81.9%). Left colon was the most common location in both age groups, followed by the rectum in the younger group and the right colon for the older group. Regarding tumor sidedness, left-sided tumors were the most common (38.9%), followed by right-sided (32.3%) with sigmoid (64%) and ascending colon (40.4%) being the most affected anatomical locations within right-sided and left-sided tumors respectively. The right colon group had the highest proportion of high-grade cases (18.4%) when compared with the other two ($P < 0.001$). Significant associations between tumor location and mean age, tumor grade, histological subtype, smoking, HTN status, and having a positive family history were identified.

Conclusion

Patients in our cohort were more likely to have advanced stages of CRC upon diagnosis which emphasizes the importance of screening when there's clinical suspicion.