

Editorial

Multi-disciplinary approach to the management of colon and rectal cancer

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O'Leary and colleagues raise the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach to the management of colon and rectal cancer [1]. In particular, they stress the impact the multi-disciplinary approach had on identification of inherited syndromes. Certainly, identification of an inherited syndrome will affect the individual patient, and the entire family may benefit from genetic counseling and evaluation. For the individual patient, presence of a syndrome may change the index operation and may also lead to early diagnosis and/or prevention of associated malignancies. Similar preventative approaches can be taken for relevant members of the family. Data on impact of early detection of other inherited cancers would be valuable to review as a second stage to this study. The United Kingdom and Ireland require that all oncology cases be discussed at a tumor board before and after surgical therapy (personal communication). These countries have admitted that decision making

and optimal care of the colorectal cancer patient requires care co-ordination and input from all concerned specialties. Certainly, all centers that care for colon and rectal cancers should be required to run a multidisciplinary tumor board. I hope this article will set the stage for quality guidelines and requirements for centers that care for patients with colon and rectal cancer.

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References

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