

John R. Marsh Cancer Center

Annual Cancer Registry Report for 2008

Colorectal Cancer

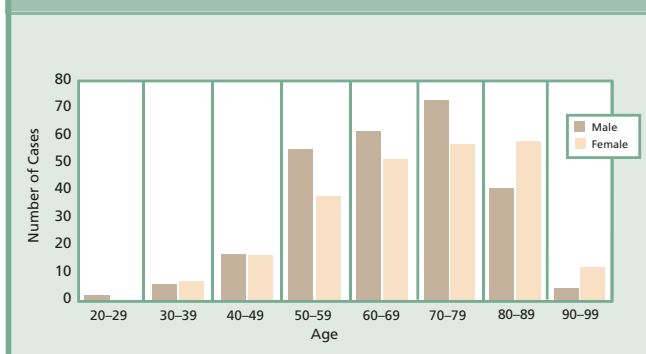
by William T. Su, MD

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common malignancy overall in Washington County, and the second most common cause of cancer death in this county. Although there are certain groups of patients at increased risk for colon cancer, approximately 75% of cases of colon cancer are sporadic without any predisposing factors. The average population risk is 5% in the United States. Groups with increased risk include patients with a family history of colorectal cancer, patients with inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and patients with increased numbers of polyps. There is no significant increase in risk based on gender. While colorectal cancer can occur in patients as young as 20 years old, the majority of patients are at least 50, with the greatest number of patients between the ages of 60 and 80 (Figure 1).

age of 50, unless there is a family history of colon cancer developing at a younger age. Colonoscopy is useful not only for diagnosing colon cancer, but also for preventing colon cancer by removing polyps which are the precursors to colon cancer. Newer modalities, such as CT colonography are useful adjuncts in patients who cannot tolerate a colonoscopy easily.

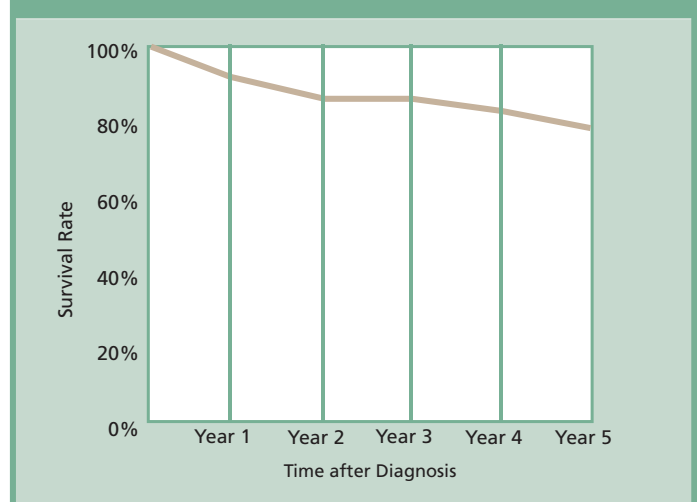
The mainstay of therapy is still surgical resection with evaluation of adjacent lymph nodes. Radiation therapy is used either preoperatively or postoperatively for node-positive or transmural rectal cancers. Chemotherapy is an option for patients with node-positive and sometimes transmural colorectal cancers as well. Preoperative chemotherapy tends to be reserved for those patients with advanced colorectal cancer at the time of diagnosis. Overall, the five-year survival for patients with colon cancer is approximately 80%. (Figure 2)

Figure 1. Prevalence of Colorectal Cancer at Washington County Hospital 2003–2007



The signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer (abdominal pain, rectal bleeding, anemia, and constipation) can be vague and often do not occur until the cancer is advanced. As a result, colonoscopy has become the mainstay of screening. Patients are recommended to have a colonoscopy starting at the

Figure 2. Colorectal Cancer Adjusted Five-Year Survival Rate at Washington County Hospital 2003–2007



Primary Site Distribution of Cancer Cases at Washington County Hospital for 2008

	Total Cases	Analytic	Non- Analytic	Male	Female
All sites	923	847	76	466	457
Oral Cavity	18	16	2	12	6
Lip	0	0	0	0	0
Tongue	4	4	0	3	1
Oropharynx	1	1	0	1	0
Hypopharynx	1	1	0	1	0
Other	12	10	2	7	5
Digestive System	116	116	0	66	50
Esophagus	8	8	0	6	2
Stomach	7	7	0	4	3
Colon	57	57	0	38	19
Rectum	14	14	0	3	11
Anus/anal canal	2	2	0	0	2
Liver	4	4	0	3	1
Pancreas	15	15	0	7	8
Other	9	9	0	5	4
Respiratory System	147	145	2	86	61
Nasal/sinus	3	2	1	3	0
Larynx	5	5	0	4	1
Lung/bronchus	138	137	1	78	60
Other	1	1	0	1	0
Blood & Bone Marrow	35	35	0	19	16
Leukemia	18	18	0	11	7
Multiple Myeloma	13	13	0	6	7
Other	4	4	0	2	2
Connective Tissue/Soft Tissue	10	10	0	6	4
Skin	54	40	14	28	26
Melanoma	53	39	14	27	26
Other	1	1	0	1	0
Breast	153	151	2	0	153

Primary Site Distribution of Cancer Cases at Washington County Hospital for 2008 continued

	Total Cases	Analytic	Non- Analytic	Male	Female
Female Genital	54	49	5	0	54
Cervix uteri	12	12	0	0	12
Corpus uteri	22	21	1	0	22
Ovary	12	9	3	0	12
Vulva	5	5	0	0	5
Other	3	2	1	0	3
Male Genital	167	135	32	167	0
Prostate	164	134	30	164	0
Testis	2	0	2	2	0
Other	1	1	0	1	0
Urinary System	64	45	19	42	22
Bladder	42	24	18	32	10
Kidney/renal	21	20	1	10	11
Other	1	1	0	0	1
Brain & CNS	19	19	0	6	13
Brain (benign)	9	9	0	0	9
Brain (malignant)	10	10	0	6	4
Endocrine	30	30	0	7	23
Thyroid	28	28	0	7	21
Other	2	2	0	0	2
Lymphatic System	41	41	0	20	21
Hodgkin's disease	6	6	0	3	3
Non-Hodgkin's	35	35	0	17	18
Unknown Primary	12	12	0	6	6
Other/Ill-defined	3	3	0	1	2

Number of cases excluded: 5

This report excludes CA in-situ cervix cases, squamous and basal cell skin cases, and intraepithelial neoplasia cases.

2008 National Cancer Rates vs. Washington County, Md., Cancer Rates by Gender for Top Five Sites

Sites	Female		Sites	Male	
	WCHS	National		WCHS	National
Breast	33%	26%	Prostate	35%	25%
Lung	13%	14%	Lung	17%	15%
Colorectal	7%	10%	Colorectal	9%	10%
Melanoma	6%	4%	Bladder	7%	7%
Corpus uteri	5%	6%	Melanoma	6%	5%



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For more information about the John R. Marsh Cancer Center, please visit WashingtonCountyHospital.com.