

**EP.WE.231****Emergency Presentations of Colorectal Cancer during the COVID-19 Era**

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**Aims:** COVID-19 has reduced the ability to provide red flag investigations for colorectal patients. The aim of this study is to assess the number of emergency presentations of new colorectal malignancy during the COVID-19 era and if there is an increase in palliative cases.

**Methods:** A retrospective review of all patients presenting to unscheduled care with a new diagnosis of colorectal malignancy from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 in a single UK Trust. An institutional data base and electronic care records were used to review patient demographics, management and curative intent. Data points for the same period in 2019-2020 were recorded for comparison.

**Results:** 45 patients diagnosed with new colorectal malignancy during an unscheduled admission to hospital within the study timeframe. 22% (10/45) presented in January 2021. 29 diagnosed during the same time interval 2019-2020. Median age at presentation was 77.5 and 79 respectively.

40% (18/45) of patients in 2020-2021 proceeded to emergency surgery, compared to 58% (17/29) in 2019-2020 ( $p = 0.12$ ).

10.3% (3/29) of 2019-2020 patients were managed with colonic stenting. This increased in 2020-2021 to 17.8% (8/45) ( $p = 0.38$ ).

77.8% (35/45) patients in 2020/2021 presented at a palliative stage of disease compared to 62.1% (18/29) in 2019-2020 ( $p = 0.15$ ).

**Conclusions:** Overall the data has not shown a statistically significant difference in patients presenting as an emergency with new colorectal malignancy. However, there was a rise in admissions noted in January 2021; should this trend continue, alongside the persistent pressures of COVID-19 ongoing research is needed to assess the true impact.