

Endoscopic management of patients with familial adenomatous polyposis after prophylactic colectomy or restorative proctocolectomy - systematic review of the literature

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Background. Patients with familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) develop early colorectal adenomas and if left untreated, progression to cancer is an inevitable event. Prophylactic surgery does not prevent further development of cancer in the rectal remnant, rectal cuff in patients with ileal pouch anal anastomosis (IPAA) and even on the ileal mucosa of the pouch body. The aim of this review is to assess long-term rates of cancer and adenoma development in patients with FAP after prophylactic surgery and to summarise current recommendations for endoscopic management and surveillance of these patients.

Materials and methods. A systematic literature search of studies from January 1946 through to June 2023 was conducted using the PRISMA checklist. The electronic database PubMed was searched.

Results. Fifty-four papers involving 5010 patients were reviewed. Cancer rate in the rectal remnant was 8.8–16.7% in the western population and 37% in the eastern population. The cumulative risk of cancer 30 years after surgery was 24%. Mortality due to cancer in the rectal remnant is 1.1–11.1% with a 5-year survival rate of 55%. The adenoma rate after primary IPAA was 9.4–85% with a cumulative risk of 85% 20 years after surgery and a cumulative risk of 12% for advanced adenomas 10 years after surgery. Cumulative risk for adenomas after ileorectal anastomosis (IRA) was 85% after 5 and 100% after 10 years. Adenomas developed more frequently after stapled (33.9–57%) compared to hand-sewn (0–33%) anastomosis. We identified reports of 45 cancers in patients after IPAA of which 30 were in the pouch body and 15 in the rectal cuff or at the anastomosis.

Conclusions. There was a significant incidence of cancer and adenomas in the rectal remnant and ileal pouch of FAP patients during the long-term follow-up. Regular endoscopic surveillance is recommended, not only in IRA patients, but also in pouch patients after proctocolectomy.

Key words: familial adenomatous polyposis; ileorectal anastomosis; ileal pouch-anal anastomosis

Introduction

Familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) is an autosomal dominant inherited disease caused by pathogenic variants in the adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) gene¹ with reported incidence of one in 8,000 to 12,000 live births.² The main hallmark of the disease is the presence of multiple colorectal adenomas, leading to a 100% lifetime risk of developing cancer if the colon remains in situ.³ To prevent the development of cancer, prophylactic colectomy or proctocolectomy is performed when the adenoma burden cannot be managed endoscopically or at the age of 18–25 years old. The following types of surgery are available⁴: total colectomy with ileorectal anastomosis (IRA) or ileosigmoid anastomosis (ISA); proctocolectomy with/without mucosectomy and stapled ileal pouch-anal anastomosis (IPAA) or hand-sewn IPAA; and total proctocolectomy with end ileostomy. Until restorative proctocolectomy with IPAA and pouch reconstruction was described in the 1970s, colectomy with IRA or end ileostomy was the only surgical prophylactic procedure available and was associated to a considerable high CRC incidence and mortality.⁵ After this, proctocolectomy with pouch reconstruction (IPAA) was the technique of choice in patients with a high adenoma burden and was sought to eliminate the risk of CRC in FAP patients. However, since the first report of pouch cancer in 1994⁶, there has been a substantial increase in published literature reporting rates of adenoma and cancer development after primary IPAA. The development of adenomas along life in remnant rectal mucosa is a natural phenomenon

in this population. Long live periodical surveillance with rectoscopies is widely recommended in international guidelines as shown in Table 1.^{4,7-10} As there are no randomised trials comparing endoscopic surveillance and management strategies for FAP patients with IRA and IPAA, we aimed to systematically evaluate adenoma and cancer development after prophylactic surgery, define potential risk factors and to summarise endoscopic practices from published series.

Materials and methods

Our review is reported according to the PRISMA guidelines.¹¹

Search strategy

We searched PUBMED from inception to June 2023 to identify studies evaluating long-term adenoma and cancer development in patients with FAP after prophylactic surgery. Deduplication was performed using Zotero software.¹² Reference lists of included studies were hand-searched for additional relevant studies. The search was limited to studies, published in English. We used the following keywords: “FAP”, “IRA”, “IPAA”, “familial adenomatous polyposis” and “proctocolectomy”.

Inclusion criteria

We included single-or multicentre retrospective cohort studies, prospective cohort studies and retrospective analyses of polyposis registries. Due to

TABLE 1. Summary of recommendations from the international guidelines

First author and publication date (ref.)	Endoscopic surveillance – patients with IRA	Indications for secondary proctectomy patients with IRA	Endoscopic surveillance – patients with IPAA
Vasen et al., 2008 ⁷	Every 3 to 6 months	Multiple large adenomas (> 5 mm) Adenomas with dysplasia	Every 6 to 12 months
Balmaña et al., 2013, ESMO ⁸	Every 12 months	No recommendations	Every 12 months
Stoffel et al., 2015, ASCO ⁹	Every 6 to 12 months	No recommendations	Every 6 months to 5 years (Intervals should be determined on a case-by-case basis and may be even shorter than 1 year for some individuals)
Sygnal et al., 2015, ACG ¹⁰	Every 12 months	No recommendations	Every 12 months
Herzig et al., 2017, ASCRS ⁴	Every 12 months	No recommendations	Every 12 months
Van Leerdam ME et al., 2019, ESGE ⁵³	Every 12 to 24 months	No recommendations	Every 12 to 24 months
Yang J et al., 2020, ASGE ⁵⁴	6 months after surgery with 6 to 12 months further surveillance interval		12 months after surgery with 12 to 24 months further surveillance interval. 6 months if advance adenoma

ACG = American College of Gastroenterology; ASCO = American Society of Clinical Oncology; ASCRS = American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons; ASGE = American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy; ESGE = European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy; ESMO = European Society for Medical Oncology; IPAA = ileal pouch anal anastomosis; IRA = ileorectal anastomosis

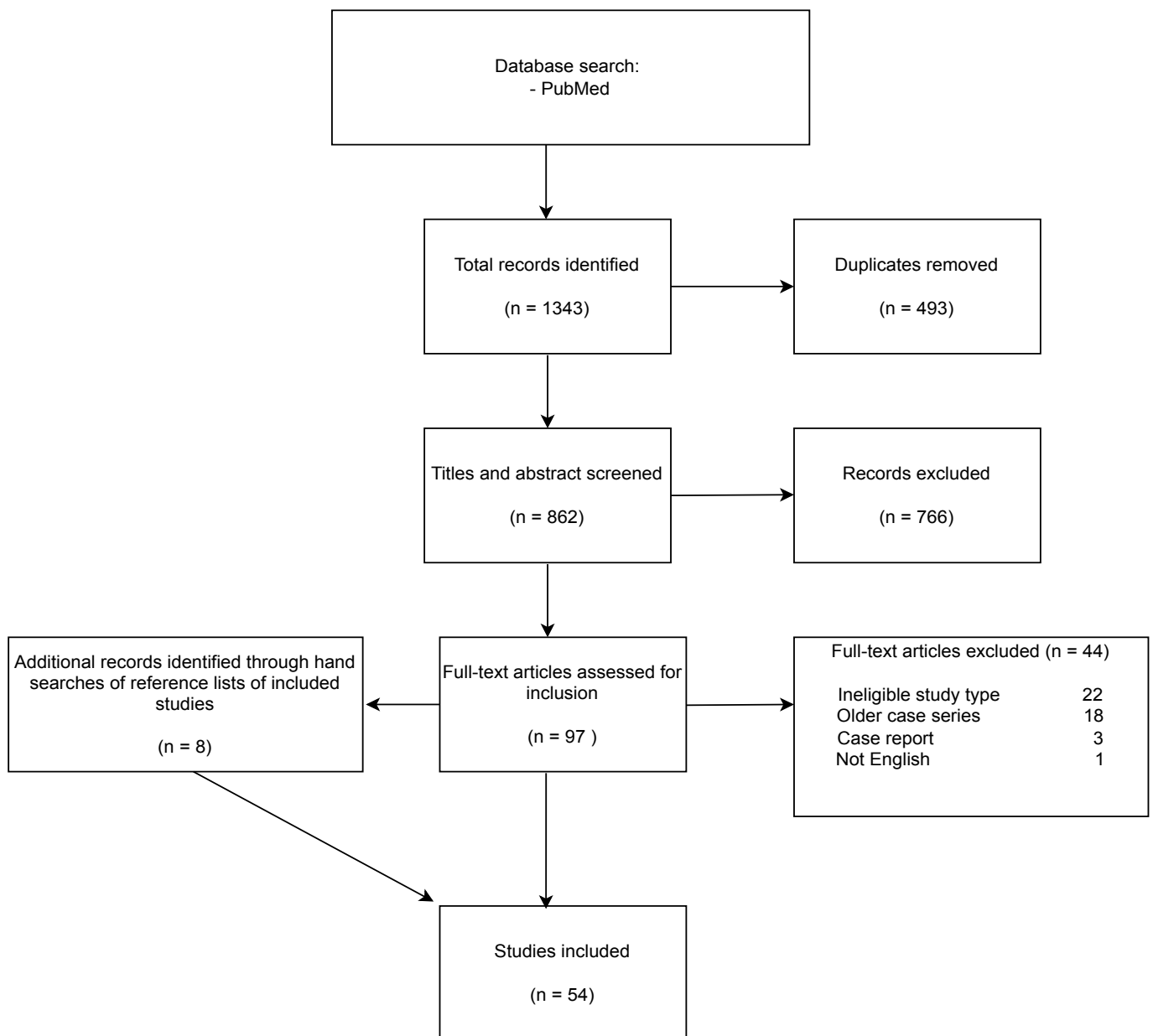


FIGURE 1. Flowchart of the systematic review according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews (PRISMA) schema.

the rarity of the events, we only considered case reports for inclusion when summarising reports on cancers after primary IPAA. Only the most recent series from the same institution or polyposis registry were included in the analysis, as some research groups regularly publish retrospective analyses of their cohorts or polyposis registries. Full-text screening and data extraction were performed by a single researcher (AG). Manuscripts of three case reports could not be obtained, data were summarised from the two review articles.^{13,14}

Results

Studies identified

Of 97 full-text articles screened for eligibility (Figure 1), 46 met our inclusion criteria. A further 8 articles were identified by hand searching the reference lists of the included studies (6 case reports, 1 retrospective cohort, 1 polyposis registry analysis). We included 22 retrospective analyses, 14 case reports (carcinoma development after primary IPAA), 15 retrospective analyses of prospectively

maintained polyposis registries and 3 prospective cohort studies. Only 5 studies were multicentre and 1 was bi-centre. The studies were published between 1994 and 2023. The studies included between 1 and 925 patients. A total of 5010 patients were included in the review. Summary characteristics of the included studies are shown in Table 2.

Total colectomy with ileorectal anastomosis

Adenomas

Five studies described the rate of adenoma development in the residual rectum (Supplementary Table 1). In 8 studies that analysed the frequency of secondary proctectomy due to endoscopically unmanageable polyposis, the rate of proctectomy ranged from 3.7% to 35%.¹⁵ Five studies described adenoma evaluated in the neoterminal ileum (Table 3), with a high variance in reported rates from 0%¹⁶ to 47.6% in patients followed-up for median of > 20 years¹⁷ in one study including a paediatric cohort¹⁸, 2 patients required resection of the terminal ileum and construction of a new IRA, one due to low grade dysplasia (LGD) and one due to high grade dysplasia (HGD) adenoma.

Rectal cancer

The reported rate of cancer in the rectal remnant (Table 4) after primary IRA is 8.8%¹⁸ to 16.7%¹⁹ with a median follow-up from surgery¹⁹ of 91.1 months (3–557 months). However, studies from Japan report higher rates of up to 37%²⁰, but this is due to the inclusion of *in situ* carcinoma in the cancer definition. The same study had the longest median follow-up of 21.1 years (3–35). On the other hand, a small cohort of 21 patients from France reported zero cases of cancer during a median follow-up of 8.4 years. Jenner *et al.*²¹ only included patients with a confirmed mutation. Five studies reported a cumulative incidence of rectal cancer ranging from 3%²² to 17.2%¹⁹ at 5 years, 7.7%²³ to 24.1%¹⁹ at 10 years, 11%²² to 23%²³ at 20 years, and 24%²² at 30 years after the primary IRA. In one of the largest studies²⁴, which analysed data from 4 national registries and 776 patients, the 10-year cumulative risk of residual rectal cancer was 4.4% (95% CI, 2.6–6.2) for patients who underwent surgery before 1990 and only 2.5% (0–5.5) after the 1990. Only one study reported the time from surgery to cancer diagnosis (median 102 months [1–26 years])²³; other studies reported follow-up time from surgery, but did not clearly define when follow-up started nor the surveillance regime. Five studies reported mortality ranging from

1.6%²³ to 11.1%²⁰ in which 3 out of 27 patients died from cancer in the rectal remnant. Only one of two studies that examined long-term survival after diagnosis of residual rectal cancer reported a 5-year survival rate of 55%.²² In a study from Japan, 5-year survival was 94%²⁵, but the excellent survival was explained by the inclusion of carcinoma *in situ* despite the exact proportion of these was not given.

Risk factors for progressive phenotype of rectal remnant

Eleven studies reported nine risk factors predictive of the progressive rectal residual phenotype (Supplementary Table 2). Four studies analysed the genotype-phenotype relationship; The presence of a pathogenic variant between codons 1250–1464 was an independent risk factor for subsequent cancer development (HR 4.4 [1.3–15.0]²³ and for the secondary proctectomy^{26,27} (HR 3.91 [1.45–10.51], $P = 0.007$). In a small study of 25 patients, all patients ($n = 3$) with carpeting rectal remnant polyposis had a pathogenic variant in codon 1309, but this was only descriptive data.²⁸ An aggressive colonic phenotype with at least 500 polyps at time for surgery was identified as a risk factor in three studies (Supplementary Table 2). Two studies^{15,25} have identified > 20 rectal remnant polyps at the time of surgery or during the endoscopic surveillance²⁶ as an independent risk factor for secondary proctectomy (HR 30.99 [9.57–100.32] $P < 0.001$), while in one study a cut-off of > 10 rectal adenomas²⁸ was associated with a more aggressive phenotype, as these patients developed a mean of 9.29 rectal residual adenomas per patient per year compared with 0.67 adenomas per patient per year if they had < 5 rectal polyps at the time of surgery. Other potential risk factors included patient age at diagnosis of rectal residual cancer, time since surgery, presence of congenital hypertrophy of the retinal pigment epithelium, and presence of colon cancer at the time of primary surgery. APC site mutation, preoperative colon phenotype, presence of duodenal adenomas and rectal remnant phenotype on surveillance were not identified as risk factors for progressive rectal remnant disease phenotype only in one study.²⁰

Proctocolectomy with ileal-pouch anal anastomosis

Adenomas

Seventeen studies (Table 5) reported on the development of adenomas after IPAA, of which eight studies differentiated between the pouch body

TABLE 2. Characteristics of included studies

First author and publication date (ref.)	No. of patients	Country	Setting	Study design	Surgery performed (period)	Study population
Aelvoet <i>et al.</i> , 2023 ⁵⁵	144 (111 IPAA, 33 ileostomy)	The Netherlands	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	/	IPAA, ileostomy
Tatsuta <i>et al.</i> , 2023 ⁵⁶	65 (22 IRA, 20 IPAA)	Japan	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1976–2022	IRA, IPAA
Anele <i>et al.</i> , 2022 ⁵⁷	199 (199 IRA)	United Kingdom	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1990–2017	IRA
Colletti <i>et al.</i> , 2022 ⁵⁸	715 (715 IRA)	Italy	Multicentre	Retrospective analysis of the Registry	1977–2021	IRA
Pasquer <i>et al.</i> , 2021 ⁵⁹	289 (197 IRA, 92 IPAA)	France	Multicentre	Retrospective analysis of the Registry	1965–2015	IRA, IPAA
Ardoino <i>et al.</i> , 2020 ⁶⁰	925 (585 IRA, 340 IPAA)	Italy	Multicenter	Retrospective analysis of the Registry	1947–2015	IRA, IPAA
Tajika <i>et al.</i> , 2019 ¹⁶	47 (14 IRA, 25 IPAA, 8 ileostomy)	Japan	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1965–2017	IRA, IPAA and ileostomy
Ganschow <i>et al.</i> , 2018 ⁶¹	192	Germany	Singe	Cohort/Prospective and retrospective analysis of Polyposis Registry	Endoscopy data collected during 2010–2013	IPAA
Kariv <i>et al.</i> , 2017 ⁶²	45	Israel	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1986–2013	IPAA
Patel <i>et al.</i> , 2016 ⁴²	21 (6 IRA, 5 IPAA, 10 intact colon)	Indianapolis, USA	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	Endoscopies performed between 2004–2016	IRA, IPAA and intact colon
Walsh <i>et al.</i> , 2016 ⁶³	1	Ireland	Single	Case report	1987	IPAA - cancer
Maehata <i>et al.</i> , 2015 ²⁰	27	Japan	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1990–2004	IRA
Ganschow <i>et al.</i> , 2015 ⁵⁰	100; 50 hand-sewn and 50 stapled anastomoses	Germany	Single	Cohort/Prospective	?	Hand-sewn vs. stapled anastomosis
Goldstein <i>et al.</i> , 2015 ⁴³	59	Israel	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1986–2013	IPAA
Zahid <i>et al.</i> , 2015 ⁴⁴	27	Australia	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1984–2011	IPAA
Kennedy <i>et al.</i> , 2014 ⁶⁵	95; 85 hand-sewn and 1 stapled anastomosis	Rochester, Mayo Clinic, USA	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1987–2011	IPAA
Koskenvuo <i>et al.</i> , 2013 ²²	140	Finland	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1963–2012	IRA
Pommaret <i>et al.</i> , 2013 ³⁵	118	France	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	/	IPAA and IRA
Boostrom <i>et al.</i> , 2013 ⁶⁶	117	Rochester, Mayo Clinic, USA	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1972–2007	IPAA
Ozdemir <i>et al.</i> , 2013 ³⁷	260; 86 hand-sewn and 175 stapled anastomoses	Cleveland, USA	Single	Analysis of polyposis registry	1983–2010	Hand-sewn vs. stapled anastomosis
Wasmuth <i>et al.</i> , 2013 ⁶⁷	61; 39 hand-sewn with mucosectomy and 22 without of which 15 were stapled and 7 hand-sewn anastomoses	Norway	Multicenter	Analysis of polyposis registry	1986–2008	IPAA (mucosectomy vs. no-mucosectomy)
Yan <i>et al.</i> , 2012 ⁶⁸	42 (33 IPAA; 6 IRA ?)	China	Single	Cohort/Retrospective	1988–2008	IPAA and IRA

First author and publication date (ref.)	No. of patients	Country	Setting	Study design	Surgery performed (period)	Study population
Makni <i>et al.</i> , 2012 ⁶⁹	1	Tunisia	Single	Case report	1996	IPAA - cancer
Tonelli <i>et al.</i> , 2012 ⁵¹	69	Italy	Single	Cohort/ Prospective data collection	1984–2008	IPAA
von Roon <i>et al.</i> , 2011 ⁷⁰	140; 44 hand-sewn and 76 stapled anastomoses	UK	Single	Retrospective analysis of St. Mark's Hospital Polyposis Registry	1978–2007	Hand-sewn vs. stapled anastomosis
Banasiewicz <i>et al.</i> , 2011 ³²	165	Poland	Bicenter	Bicenter/ Retrospective analysis	1985–2009 operated, Clinical data from endoscopy FUP between 2004–2009	IPAA
Booij <i>et al.</i> , 2010 ¹⁸	43 (34 IRA)	The Netherlands	Single	Cohort/ Retrospective	1977–2005	IRA and IPAA
Sinha <i>et al.</i> , 2010 ²⁶	427	UK	Single	Retrospective analysis of St. Mark's Hospital Polyposis Registry	1990–2008	IRA
Ault <i>et al.</i> , 2009 ⁷¹	2	Los Angeles, USA	Single	Case series	1990, 1993	IPAA - cancer
Nieuwenhuis <i>et al.</i> , 2009 ²⁷	475	Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Netherlands	Multicenter	Analysis of polyposis registry	/	IRA
Yamaguchi <i>et al.</i> , 2009 ²⁵	59	Japan	Single	Cohort/ Retrospective	1962–2007	IRA
Friederich <i>et al.</i> , 2008 ³¹	212; 71 hand-sewn with mucosectomy and 115 stapled anastomoses	The Netherlands	Single	Analysis of National Polyposis Registry	1985–2005	IPAA
Campos <i>et al.</i> , 2008 ¹⁹	36	Brasil	Single	Cohort/ Retrospective	1977–2006	IRA and IPAA
Bullow <i>et al.</i> , 2008 ²⁴	776; 576 operated in pre-pouch period and 200 in pouch period starting in 1990	Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Netherlands	Multicenter	Analysis of polyposis registry	1950–2006	IRA
Gleeson <i>et al.</i> , 2008 ³⁰	16	Rochester, Mayo Clinic, USA	Single	Cohort/ Retrospective analysis	1964–2003 (Analysis of endoscopies between 1992–2006)	IPAA and IRA
Lee <i>et al.</i> , 2008 ⁷²	1	Korea	Single	Case report	1998	IPAA - cancer
Linehan <i>et al.</i> , 2007 ⁷³	1	Ireland	Single	Case report	1997	IPAA - cancer
Valanzano <i>et al.</i> , 2007 ²⁸	25	Italy	Single	Cohort/ Prospective	1986–2004	IRA
Moussata <i>et al.</i> , 2007 ¹⁷	21	France	Single	Cohort/ Retrospective	/	IPAA and IRA
Ulas <i>et al.</i> , 2006 ⁷⁴	1	Turkey	Single	Case report	1993	IPAA - cancer
Campos <i>et al.</i> , 2005 ¹⁹	1	Brazil	Single	Case report	/	IPAA - cancer
Groves <i>et al.</i> , 2005 ³⁴	60	UK	Single	Retrospective analysis of St. Mark's Hospital Polyposis Registry	/	IPAA
Vroueraets <i>et al.</i> , 2004 ⁷⁵	2	The Netherlands	Single	Case report	1990, 1991	IPAA – cancer
Ooi <i>et al.</i> , 2003 ³⁶	2	Cleveland, USA	Single	Case report	/	IPAA – cancer

First author and publication date (ref.)	No. of patients	Country	Setting	Study design	Surgery performed (period)	Study population
Church <i>et al.</i> , 2003 ³⁸	197; 62 operated in pre-pouch period and 135 in pouch period starting in 1983	Cleveland, USA	Single	Analysis of polyposis registry	1950–1999	IRA
Cherki <i>et al.</i> , 2003 ⁷⁶	1	France	Single	Case report	/	IPAA - cancer
Thompson-Fawcett <i>et al.</i> , 2001 ⁷⁷	33	Canada	Single	Cohort/Prospective	/	IPAA
Church <i>et al.</i> , 2001 ¹⁵	213 (165 IRA)	Cleveland, USA	Single	Analysis of polyposis registry	/	IRA and IPAA
Brown <i>et al.</i> , 2001 ⁷⁸	1	Singapore	Single	Case report	/	IPAA - cancer
Bertario <i>et al.</i> , 2000 ²³	371	Italy	Multicenter	Retrospective analysis of Hereditary tumor registry	1955–1997	IRA
Vuilleumier <i>et al.</i> , 2000 ⁷⁹	1	UK	Single	Case report	1990	IPAA - cancer
Jenner <i>et al.</i> , 1998 ²¹	55	Australia	Single	Analysis of polyposis registry	?–1994	IRA
Bassuini <i>et al.</i> , 1996 ⁸⁰	1	UK	Single	Case report	1991	IPAA - cancer
Hoehner <i>et al.</i> , 1994 ⁶	1	Iowa, USA	Single	Case report	/	IPAA - cancer

FUP = follow up; IPAA = ileal pouch anal anastomosis; IRA = ileorectal anastomosis

and the anastomosis, one study only reported the anastomotic adenoma rate, while in the remaining seven studies the authors did not precisely define the anatomical location of the adenomas. The median age of patients at the time of surgery ranged from 15.4 to 34.6 years, with a median follow-up from surgery of 5.4 years to a median of 21.6 years. The reported rate of adenoma in the pouch body ranged from 9.4%²⁹ to 76.9%.³⁰ The proportion of HGD histology among adenomas at the polyp level ranged from 5.9%¹⁷ to 53.2%.³¹ In one study, the proportion of advanced adenomas on a per-patient basis was 11.2%.³¹ The cumulative risk of adenoma development after primary IPAA was 12% and 58% at 5 and 20 years after the surgery respectively.¹⁶ According to the analysis from Poland³², 50% of all patients would develop LGD 15 years after the surgery, while HGD is estimated to be present in half of the patients 17.5 years after the surgery. Six studies analysed the rate of adenoma development in the neo terminal ileum, the proportion of patients with histologically confirmed adenoma varied from 4.2%³³ to 23.1%³⁰ with at a median follow-up from surgery of 6.5³⁴ to 23.1 years.¹⁶ The cumulative risk of developing an adenoma in the neo terminal ileum was 4.4% at 20 years and increased to 36% at 30 years after the surgery as reported in the same study. The presence of pouch body ad-

enomas was the only independent risk factor for the neo terminal ileum adenomas (OR, 2.16, $P = 0.007$).³⁵

Cancer

Since the first case report of cancer arising in the ileal pouch of a FAP patient in 1994⁶, we have identified 45 (Table 6) cancers that have developed in FAP patients after primary IPAA. Of these, 30 were located in the pouch body and 15 in the anastomosis/rectal cuff. The time from surgery to cancer diagnosis was reported for 22 patients and ranged from 2.3³⁶ to 33 years.³⁷ The information about the interval since last follow-up was reported for only 15 patients. The shortest interval between normal endoscopic surveillance and cancer diagnosis was 9 months.¹⁶ Of the studies that reported the final outcome, 13 (28.9%) patients were alive at the last follow-up (range 8 months to 6 years) after surgical therapy and 9 patients died of disseminated cancer (1 month to 4 years after diagnosis), most despite an initial R0 resection.

Hand-sewn vs. stapled IPAA

Six studies (Supplementary Table 3) compared the rates of adenoma development at the anastomosis between hand-sewn and stapled techniques. The incidence of adenoma was lower for hand-sewn

TABLE 3. Rate of adenoma development in the neoterminal ileum in patients after ileorectal anastomosis (IRA) and ileal pouch anal anastomosis (IPAA)

First author and publication date (ref.)	Adenomas in the neoterminal ileum – after primary IPAA; n (%)	Cumulative risk for development of neoterminal adenomas	Years since surgery	Risk factor for adenomas in neoterminal ileum	Rate of adenomas in the neoterminal ileum – after primary IRA; n (%)	Years since surgery
Tajika <i>et al.</i> , 2019 ¹⁶	4/24 (16.7)	4.4% at 20 years and 36% at 30 years after primary surgery	23.1 ± 5.8		0/14 (0.0)	
Boostrom <i>et al.</i> , 2013 ⁶⁶	4/33 polyps (12.0)					
Pommaret <i>et al.</i> , 2013 ³⁵	9/118 (6.5)			Presence of pouch adenomas (OR, 2.16, <i>P</i> = 0.007)		
Booij <i>et al.</i> , 2010 ¹⁸					5/34 (14.7) 2 patients had resection of neo-terminal ileum, one due to LGD and other due to HGD adenoma.	
Gleeson <i>et al.</i> , 2008 ³⁰	3/13 (23.1)		Median 6.5 (0–15)		4/16 (25.0)	Median 12 (1–29)
Moussata <i>et al.</i> , 2007 ¹⁷			Mean 17.6 ± 7.8 (6–35) Mean from colectomy to diagnosis: 16.4 ± 8.5 (5–30)		10/21 (47.6) of which 2 were advanced adenomas.	
Groves <i>et al.</i> , 2005 ³⁴	2/20 (10.0)		6 (1–14)		1/47 (2.0%)	12 (0–39)
Thompson-Fawcett <i>et al.</i> , 2001 ⁷⁷	1/24 (4.2)		Median 7 (1–19)			

HGD = high grade dysplasia; LGD = low grade dysplasia

anastomosis, ranging from 0 to 33%, and for stapled anastomosis, ranging from 33.9 to 57%. The 10-year cumulative risk of adenoma development is 20–22.6% for hand-sewn anastomosis and 51.1–64% for stapled anastomosis.

Risk factors for adenoma development after primary IPAA

Nine studies analysed risk factors for adenoma development (Supplementary Table 4). None of the seven studies found a genotype-phenotype association. There was no association between colon adenoma burden at the time of surgery and subsequent development of pouch adenomas in three out of four studies. In the only positive study, none of the patients with < 200 colon polyps developed pouch adenomas, whereas almost half of the patients with > 1000 colon polyps later developed later pouch adenomas. Three studies have identified age of the pouch as a risk factor, while three others found no association between time since surgery and the rate of pouch adenomas. An association

between the Spigelman score and the development of pouch adenomas was not confirmed. One study identified the presence of gastric adenomas as an independent risk factor for the development of pouch adenomas.

Discussion

Using a systematic approach, we identified a wide range of reported adenoma and cancer rates in the rectal remnant, pouch body, at IPAA and in the neoterminal ileum. The wide range in adenoma rates is probably partly due to the wide range of included studies in terms of year of publication. The equipment and quality of optical diagnosis has improved considerably in recent years, allowing better detection of adenomas and more precise examination of the pouch and rectal remnants. In addition, the risk stratification of patients at the time of surgery has also improved, allowing patients with a more aggressive phenotype to un-

TABLE 4. Patient characteristics and rate of rectal remnant cancer rate in patients after ileorectal anastomosis (IRA)

First author and publication date	Proportion of man; n / (%)	APC mutation Underwent n / (%); Positive in; n/(%)	Follow-up (years/ months) since surgery	Years since surgery to cancer diagnosis	Age at surgery	Age at cancer diagnosis	Rectal remnant cancer rate; n/ (%)	Cumulative risk for rectal cancer	Rectal cancer mortality
Colletti et al., 2022 ⁵⁸	57.4%	93.6% /	/	Median of 13 years	/	/	47 / 715 (6.57)	/	14/47 (29.8%) at median follow up of 13 years.
Pasquer et al., 2021 ⁵⁹	95 (48.2)	/	/	/	/	/	12 / (6.1); 1 was metastatic, 2 were resected endoscopically, 10 surgically	/	/
Maehata et al., 2015 ²⁰	16 (59.3)	21 (77.8) 14 (66.7)	21.1 (3–35)	/	Median 27 years (9–66)	/	10/27 (37.0); 6/10 cancers were TisNOM0	8% at 10 years; 19% at 20 years; 57% at 30 years	3/27 (11.1)
Koskenvuo et al., 2013 ²²	59 (42.1)	/	Median 15 years (0–44)	/	Mean 36 years (18–71)	Cumulative risk 2% at 40 years age; 7% at 50; 13% at 60 years age and 16 % at 70 years age.	18/140 (13%)	3% at 5 years; 4% at 10 years; 11% at 20 years; 24% at 30 years after IRA	10/140 (7%); 5-year survival 55%. Cumulative risk for death due to rectal cancer after IRA: 2% at 5 years, 3% at 10 years and 9% at 30 years.
Booij et al., 2010 ⁸	19 (44.2)	/	/	/	Median 16 (7–25)	/	3/34 (8.8)	/	2/34 (5.8)
Sinha et al., 2010 ²⁶	232 (54.3)	/ 311/427 (72.8)	Median 15 years (7–25)	/	Median 21 years (11–47)	/	48/427 (11.2%)	/	/
Yamaguchi et al., 2009 ²⁵	35 (59.3)	/	Median 8.9 years	/	Median 30 years (13–65)	/	17/59 (30%)	/	5-year survival 94%; 10-year survival 94%.
Nieuwenhuis et al., 2009 ²⁷	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3.7% for group 1; 9.3% for group 2; 8.3% for group 3. ²⁸	/
Campos et al., 2008 ¹⁹	/	/	91.1 (3–557)	/	Mean 45.8 years	Mean 50.6 years	6/36 (16.7)	17.2% at 5 years; 24.1% at 10 years; 43.1% after 15 years	/
Gleeson et al., 2008 ³⁰	/	/	FUP initiated median 12 (1–29) years after surgery	/	/	40 and 59 years.	2/16 (12.5)	/	/
Bullow et al., 2008 ²⁴	401 (51.7)	/	Median 7 years (0–13). Patients were operated between 1950–2006	/	Median 27 (7–75)	/	60/776 (7.7%) (56/576: 10% and 4/200: 2%)	10-year cumulative risk 4.4% [95% CI 2.6–6.2] in pre-pouch era; 10-year cumulative risk 2.5% [95% CI 0–5.5] in pouch era;	/
Moussata et al., 2007 ¹⁷ They only watched ileal mucosas above the IRA	10 (47.6)	21/21 (100.0) 14/21 (66.7)	Mean 8.4 years ± 5 since colectomy	/	/	/	0/21 (0.0)	/	/
Church et al., 2003 ³⁸	92 / (46.7)	/	Pre-pouch era: 212 months (IQR 148 months); Pouch era: 60 months (IQR 80 months)	/	Median age 23 years (IQR 15.5 years pre-pouch and 17 years pouch)	/	8 (12.9%) in the pre-pouch era and 0 in pouch era.	/	/
Bertario et al., 2000 ²³	206/371 (55.5)	297/371 (80.1) 200/297 (67.3)	Median 81 months	Median 102 months (1–26 years)	Mean 32 years	/	27/371 (7.3)	10 years – 7.7% 15 years – 13.1 % 20 years – 23.0%	6/371 (1.6)
Jenner et al., 1998 ²¹	25/55 (45.0)	55/ (100.0)	Median 10 (1–31)	/	Mean age 30 (13–62)	Median 41	7/55 (12.7)	/	/

Colonic phenotype divided in 3 groups: (Group 1 - <100 polyps and mutation in codons 1–157, 312–412 and 1596–2843; Group 2 Hundred of polyps and mutation in codons 158–311, 413–1249 and 1465–1595; Group 3 Thousand of polyps and mutation in codon 125

APC = adenomatous polyposis coli; FUP = follow up

dergo primary restorative proctocolectomy while primary IRA can still be offered to patients with an attenuated phenotype or low rectal disease burden. Indeed, in the largest study of four European national polyposis registries, the cumulative risk

of cancer in the rectal remnant (CRR) was 10% in patients operated in the ‘pre-pouch’ period and only 2% in those who were operated in the ‘pouch period.’²⁴ Similar findings have been reported from the USA³⁸ where 8 patients operated before

TABLE 5. Patient characteristics and rate of adenomas in patients after primary ileal pouch anal anastomosis (IPAA)

First author and publication date	Sex (man); n (%)	APC mutation Underwent; n (%); Positive in; n (%)	Distinguish between pouch body and rectal cuff	Follow-up (months/years)	Time from surgery to first adenomas (years)	Age at surgery (years)	Rate of adenomas (≥ 1 polyp)	Size of adenomas, mm	Histology of adenomas; n (%)	Number of Adenomas
Aelvoet AS et al., 2023 ⁵⁵	81 (56)	101 (91) 96 (86)	Yes	Median 152 (77–240)	15% at 5 years; 48% at 10 years; 85% at 20 years.	Median 24 (18–32)		Median 5 (3–15)	Tubular adenomas 31 (28%), Tubulovillous 26 (23%), Villous 5 (5%)	Prepouch ileum 4(2–13), Pouch body 20 (5–50), rectal cuff 6 (3–10)
Tajika et al., 2019 ²⁶	16 (47.1)	/	Yes	Median 21.6 (3.7–8.8)	32 (35.9) of patients showed progression of pouch adenomas during FUP	Median 34.6 (17–52)	24/34 (70.6)	2–40 mm	6 advanced adenomas (25.0)	1–300
Ganschow et al., 2018 ⁶¹	100 (52.1)	133 (69.3) ? / 133	No	Median 12.8 (9–17) for patients with pouch adenomas and (2.5–12.2) for patients without pouch adenomas;	32 (35.9) of patients showed progression of pouch adenomas during FUP	27.5 years (10.2–58.5)	90/192 (46.9) at a median of 8.5 years (0.9–25.1) after IPAA. 5 years after IPAA 84.9% patients free of adenoma; 15 years after 40.4% and 20 years after 21.9% patients were free of adenomas.	53/192 (58.9) ≤ 4 mm; 24/192 (26.7) 5–10 mm; 13/192 (14.4) ≥ 10 mm	Tubular adenomas in 69/192 (76.7); tubulovillous adenomas in 16/192 (17.8); villous in 5/192 (5.6)	46/192 (51.1) had < 4; 14/192 (15.6) 5–10; 30/192 (33.3) > 10 adenomas
Goldstein et al., 2015 ⁶³	24 (41.0)		Yes	Mean 11.6 years ±14.6 years	Median adenoma free time interval since surgery; Cuff 10.8 years Pouch 16.9 years	Mean 30.8 years ±10.8 years	35/59 (59.0); - 20 isolated in cuff - 4 isolated in pouch body - 11 in pouch and body	/	All LGD	/
Zahid et al., 2015 ¹⁹	14 (51.8)		No	Mean 9.2 years	Median: 72 months (18–249)	Median 31 years (14–65)	12/27 (44.0)	/	Only 1 polyp HGD (< 99%)	/
Kennedy et al., 2014 ⁶⁴	43 (45.0)		Watched only anastomosis	Mean 7.6 (0–24)		Mean 15.4 (4–20)	9/95 (9.4)			
Pommaret et al., 2013 ³⁶		110 / 139 92 / 110 (Cohort included IRA, ileostomy and IPAA patients but did not distinguish between).		/	Median 15 years	25 years (9–61 years)	57/118 (48.3)	> 10 mm:12	94% LGD; 6% HGD	1–4: 22 5–20: 18 > 20: 17
Boostrom et al., 2013 ⁶⁶	52 (44.5)		Yes	125 months (25–423 months)	12.4 years (15–405 months)	26 years (4–60 years)	30/117 (25.6)	5.9 mm (2 mm to 20 mm)	22 LGD, 8 tubulovillous	/
Wasmuth et al., 2013 ⁶⁷	34 (55.7)	/	Yes (body and anastomosis)		Cumulative rate of adenomas at 28 years 17% for mucosectomy group and 75% at 15 years in a group without mucosectomy (P < 0.0001)	20 (10–49)	Anastomosis: 4/39 (10.0) vs. 14/22 (64.0) (P < 0.0001) Pouch body: 8/39 vs. 6/22 (P 0.57)			
Tonelli et al., 2012 ⁶¹	/	45 (65%)	No	Median 133 months (12–288 months)	Mean 7 years (1–15 years)	33 years (17–63 years)	25 (36.0)	Mean 3 mm (1–40)	Adenomas, dysplasia not specified	Mean 8 (1–47)
Yan et al., 2012 ⁶⁸	30 (71.5)	/	Yes	Median 7.2 (2.2–20)		29 (16–65)	At the anastomosis 6/33 (18.2)	/	/	/
Banasiewicz et al., 2011 ³³	79 (47.9)	/	/	Endoscopies performed 2–19 years since surgery.	Mean 14 months to LGD; Mean 16 months to HGD. Estimated frequency LGD 15 years later 50% and for HGD 17.5 years later 50%.		21/165 (12.7)		LGD - 21/32 (65.6); HGD - 11/32 (34.4)	
Gleeson et al., 2008 ⁶¹	/	/	Yes	/	FUP began median 6.5 (0–15) after surgery	/	13/13 (100); 10/13 pouch body; 2/13 anastomosis; 3/13 ileum above anastomosis	< 5 mm	/	5–30

First author and publication date	Sex (man); n (%)	APC mutation Underwent; n (%); Positive in; n (%)	Distinguish between pouch body and rectal cuff	Follow-up (months/years)	Time from surgery to first adenomas (years)	Age at surgery (years)	Rate of adenomas (≥ 1 polyp)	Size of adenomas, mm	Histology of adenomas; n (%)	Number of Adenomas
Friederich <i>et al.</i> , 2008 ³²	119 (56.0)	/	/	Mean 7.9 (0.4–20.3 years)	Cumulative risk of 16% at 5-years and 42.4% at 10 years for adenoma development. Cumulative risk of 12.8% at 10 years for advanced adenoma development.	Mean 30.0 years (10–62.6 years)	47/212 (35%)	/	/	/
Campos <i>et al.</i> , 2008 ¹⁷	/	/	No	50.8 (5–228)			3/26 (11.5)			
Moussata <i>et al.</i> , 2007 ²⁵	12 (57.1)	23/23 (100.0) 22/23 (95.7)	Yes (only polyps in the ileal mucosa of the pouch body are described)	Mean 5.4 $\pm$ 2.6 (1–11)	Mean 4.7 $\pm$ 3.3 years (1–14)		17/23 (74.0)	Mean size 5.2 mm $\pm$ 3.4 mm; 3 polyps were > 10 mm.	LGD 16/17 (94.1); HGD 1/17 (5.9)	/
Groves <i>et al.</i> , 2005 ³⁵	35 (58.3)	/	Between pouch and above anastomosis ileum	6 years (1–17 years)	/	32.5 years (13–66 years)	34/60 (57%) of which 5 were > 10 mm / 11 were advance adenomas	Mean size 5 mm (1–40 mm)	/	Median number 4
Thompson-Fawcett <i>et al.</i> , 2001 ⁷⁷	/	20/33 (60.6) 18/20 (90.0)	Only pouch body	/	/	/	20/33 (60.0) adenomas	1–3 mm	/	Median 10 (1–100) Also lymphoid hyperplasia included

APC = adenomatous polyposis coli; FUP = follow up; HGD = high grade dysplasia; IRA = ileorectal anastomosis; LGD = low grade dysplasia

1983 (12.9%) were diagnosed with CRR compared to none of those operated after 1983 when pouch surgery was introduced at the Cleveland Clinic. Recently published data from two Japanese studies reporting an overall CRR rate of 30%²⁵ – 37%²⁰ must be interpreted with caution as carcinoma *in situ* was also included in the definition of cancer in their cohorts. The risk of metachronous cancer after IRA has been recognised early and these patients have been advised to undergo regular surveillance of the rectal remnant. Traditionally, surveillance was recommended every 3 to 12 months. This recommendation has been maintained ever since and can be also found in the recently published international guidelines (Table 1). The French national guidelines published in 2005³⁹ are the only ones to include the genotype information, as they recommend more frequent surveillance if the pathogenic variant is located between codons 1250–1500. However, they were published in 2005.

The main obstacle to refining recommendations for endoscopic surveillance is the lack of high-quality, prospective data. Unfortunately, we have not found a single randomised trial that has compared different surveillance strategies or aimed to identify factors that would allow risk stratifi-

cation. Members of the International Society for Gastrointestinal Hereditary Tumors (InSiGHT)⁴⁰ proposed a staging system⁴¹ and stage-specific interventions for patients with intact colon and those with IRA, but unfortunately no effort has been made to validate this staging system. Data on endoscopic treatment modalities are even more descriptive. In fact, in five international recommendations (Table 1), only Vasen *et al.*⁷ recommended endoscopic removal of all polyps with dysplasia or those larger than 5 mm. Endoscopic management of these patients has therefore been influenced by expert groups. Unfortunately, preferred methods of endoscopic management were rarely described in the reviewed studies. Maehata *et al.*²⁰ recommend removal of all polyps larger than 8 mm. A descriptive study with a small sample size (n = 6)⁴² showed that large-scale cold snare polypectomy can effectively reduce the polyp burden in the rectal remnant even in cases of very high polyp numbers. The mean number of polyps removed was 78.5 (30–155). During the follow-up (mean 10.7 months), none of the patients developed rectal cancer and there were no complications related to polypectomy. This is in contrast to another study from the USA³⁰, which advocates the use of ablative therapy with argon plasma coagulation. A similar

TABLE 6. Cancer rate after primary ileal pouch anal anastomosis (IPAA)

First author and publication date (ref.)	No of patients	Age at cancer diagnosis (years)	Time to cancer (years)	Interval since last surveillance endoscopy and findings	Endoscopic findings at diagnosis	Location	Staging of cancer and status
Aelvoet et al., 2023 ⁵⁵	3/111 (2.7%)	/	/	/	/	/	Pouch excision
Pasquer et al., 2021 ⁵⁸	1/92 (1.1)	30	/	1 month	/	Pouch body	Endoscopic resection
Ganschow et al., 2018 ⁶¹	1	/	27	/	/	Pouch body	Resection and reconstruction of a new pouch - alive
Walsh et al., 2016 ⁶³	1	54	/	Regular annual surveillance	New endoscopy due to anemia and rectal blood loss	Anastomosis	T3N2Mx, resection and ileostomy, alive during last FUP.
Wasmuth et al., 2013 ⁶⁷	1	/	11	/	/	Rectal cuff	Resection and ileostomy - alive
Boostrom et al., 2013 ⁶⁶	1	/	23.7	/	/	Pouch body	Transanal resection - alive
Ozdemir et al., 2013 ³⁸	4	/	Mucosectomy group; median 11.3 years (8.3-22) Without mucosectomy; 8 years	Regular annual surveillance	/	All ATZ	3 underwent APR - alive 1 transanal resection - died 4 years later dissemination
Makni et al., 2012 ⁶⁹	1	26	10	8 months	Polyps, LGD?	Pouch body?	Pouch excision - died 12 months later dissemination
Tonelli et al., 2012 ⁵¹	2	29 58	10	12 months, normal 6 months, normal	? Ila + Ilc polyp	Pouch body Pouch body	Excision with ileostomy, T3N0M0, died 6 months later dissemination / Excision with ileostomy, T2N0M0, alive after 56 month FUP
voon Roon et al., 2011 ⁷⁰	1	/	13	/	/	Pouch body	Excision of a pouch - died 2 years of disseminated disease
Banasiewicz et al., 2011 ³³	5	/	/	/	/	Pouch body	/
Ault et al., 2009 ⁷¹	2	61 50	11 10	6, normal /	Pain and blood per rectum, 3 cm mass/ Sacral pain, bleeding ulcer	Pouch body / Pouch body	T2N1Mx, died of AMI prior treatment / Metastatic disease, chemotherapy
Tajika et al., 2009 ⁸³	2	55 68	8.6 20	9 months, normal No FUP	30x25 mm cancer / Polyposis and 25 x 25 mm polyp	Pouch body/ Kock's pouch body	T4N2M0 - died 1 year later T3N2M? - died (MDS)
Lee et al., 2008 ⁷¹	1	/	7	/	Ulcerating tumor	Pouch body	T4N1M0, APR ileostomy. Developed metastases 2 years later.
Friederich et al., 2008 ³²	4	35 37 32 36	14 10.2 16.4 6.2	4.4 years, normal 2.1 years, normal No control (symptoms) 0.6 years, Tubulovillous HGD	/	All pouch body	Dukes C Dukes B Dukes B Dukes B
Linehan et al., 2007 ⁷²	1	40	10	/	Pelvic pain, discharge	Pouch body (patient had ileostomy but pouch was left in situ)	Excision. At last FUP patient was well.
Ulas et al., 2006 ⁷⁴	1	/	9	/	/	Anastomosis	Dukes B, APR, metachronous cancer after 1 year
Campos et al., 2005 ¹⁹	1	/	12	No FUP	Presented with rectal bleeding Presented after 1 year with rectal bleeding /	Pouch body	T2N0Mx, APR and ileostomy, patient well at 6 years FUP.
Vroueraets et al., 2004 ²⁵	2	48 36	9 10	5 years normal, then 2 and 1 years (both multiple LGD adenomas refused surgery) / Regular FUP every 2 years	Normal. Routine biopsies at subsequent FUP revealed adenoca.	Anastomosis Anastomosis	T2N0M0, APR, alive 1 year later / T4N0M0, APR, alive 8 months later
Cherki et al., 2003 ⁷⁶	1	35	3.5	1.5 years	/	Pouch body	T3N1M1, resection with ileostomy, died 1 month later
Ooi et al., 2003 ³⁶	2	36 /	2 years 3 months 8 years	/ /	Symptoms of anal bleeding/ /	Anastomosis Anastomosis	T3N0M0, APR, ileostomy, died 2.5 years later dissemination / T2N0M0, transanal excision with ileostomy (refused APR), died 4 years later, dissemination
Brown et al., 2001 ⁷⁸	1	44	7 years 4 months	Under FUP every 6 months	/	Anastomosis	/
Vuilleumier et al., 2000 ⁷⁹	1	38	7	No FUP	/	Anastomosis	Resection with ileostomy - died 12 months later dissemination
Palkar et al., 1997 ¹⁵	1	39	4.7	3 months	?	Pouch body	T4NOM? - alive
Kim et al., 1997 ¹⁵	1	/	/	/	/	Pouch body?	/
Bassuini et al., 1996 ⁸⁰	1	31	3	No FUP	/	Pouch body	/
Von Herbay et al., 1996 ⁴	1	33	8	/	/	Anastomosis	T1N0M0
Hoehner et al., 1994 ⁷	1	34	20	/	/	Anastomosis	/

*The data from these cases has been drawn from reviews by Tajika¹⁴ and Smith¹³ as full-text of the papers were not accessible.

FUP = follow up; HGD = high grade dysplasia; LGD = low grade dysplasia

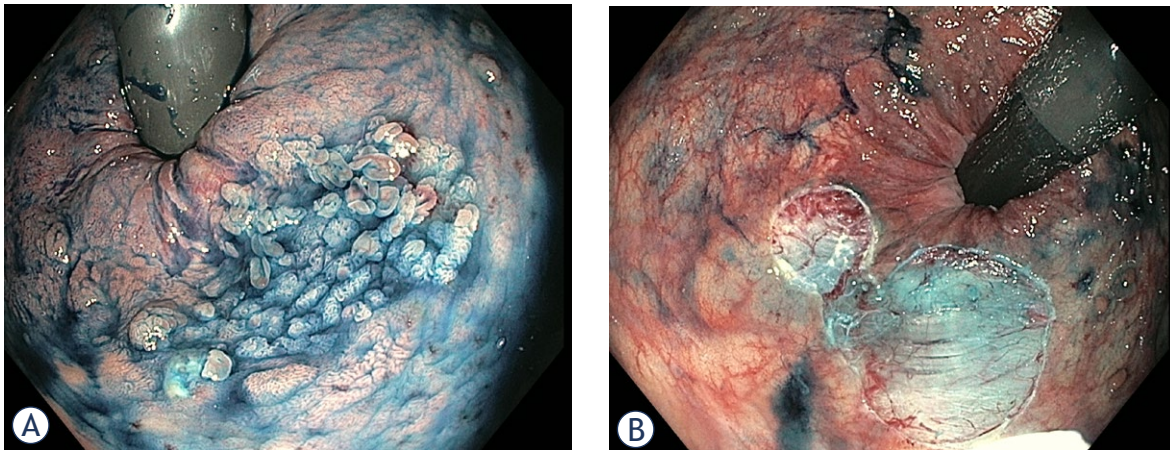


FIGURE 2. Surveillance endoscopy in a 48-year old patient with FAP after colectomy with IRA revealed 18 mm LST-G (A). After submucosal injection with gelofusine, indigo carmine and adrenaline, piecemeal endoscopic mucosal resection (pEMR) (B) was performed.

practice was supported by a study published in France in 2007.¹⁷ National French guidelines published in 2005 recommend ablation with APC for small polyps (a few millimetres) and mucosectomy for larger polyps.³⁹

Improvements in endoscopic resection techniques have also been applied to the treatment of large lesions in the rectal remnant. Recently two reports, both from Japan^{43,44}, have been published of successful endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) of 75 mm Is + IIa adenoma and residual adenoma at the IRA. In our endoscopy unit (Hospital Clinic, Barcelona) we also perform advanced endoscopic resection techniques. Figure 2 (A and B) shows a recent endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) of an 18mm laterally spreading tumour granular type (LST-G) in the rectal remnant of a patient with FAP.

There is little data on the use of advanced imaging techniques. The study from St. Mark's hospital in London⁴⁵ showed no benefit of dye-based chromoendoscopy to detect additional adenomas in the rectal remnant. The European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) guidelines⁴⁶ published in 2014 did not recommend the use of advanced endoscopic imaging in patients with FAP, but did not specifically differentiate between the patients with intact colon and those after surgery. On the other hand, the French Society of Endoscopy³⁹ recommended the use of dye-based chromoendoscopy with indigo carmine. We believe that use of dye-based chromoendoscopy in these patients does not increase the detection of clinically relevant lesions and it is not routinely performed in our unit. Considering the data on a

cumulative risk of 57% for CRR 30 years after surgery²⁰ and the fact that adenoma development in the rectal remnant is an inevitable event¹⁶, regular endoscopic surveillance is mandatory. Our recommendations are in line with other guidelines and our patients are recommended annual endoscopic surveillance, despite alarming data from an early study published in 2001⁵ from four European registries in which 75% of patients with CRR had a negative rectoscopy within 12 months and 35% within 6 months prior to diagnosis of CRR. There was no information on the endoscopy equipment used for surveillance. We believe that the high rates of negative rectoscopies prior to cancer diagnosis may – to some extent – be influenced by the quality of endoscopy, which has been limited by the technical aspects of the equipment used in the past. This problem needs to be addressed again in the light of developments in endoscopic equipment.

When restorative proctocolectomy with IPAA was first described in 1978⁴⁷, it was believed that this operation would eliminate the risk of colorectal cancer in patients with FAP. However, a few years later, as the first pouches began to age, case reports of cancers arising in the pouch began to appear in the literature.⁶ Since then, reports have become more frequent and we have identified 45 cases of cancer after primary IPAA, of which 26 arose in the ileal mucosa of the pouch body and 15 at the anastomosis. Furthermore, we now know that cancer can develop even after mucosectomy down to the dentate line⁴⁸, because even after removal of all visible rectal mucosa, some microscopic rectal columnar epithelium remains at the ATZ.⁴⁹ In the study from the Heidelberg Polyposis

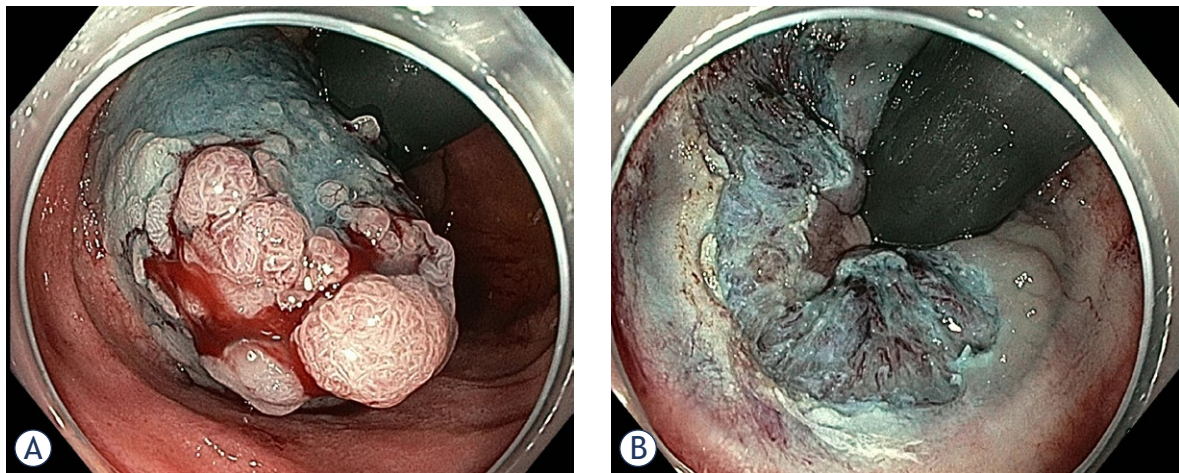


FIGURE 3. Surveillance endoscopy in a 49-year old patient with FAP after proctocolectomy with IPAA revealed 25 mm LST-G mixed type lesion in the rectal cuff. Lesion was spreading from the anastomosis to the dentate line. Patient had undergone surgery five years earlier and did not show up for endoscopy follow-up since then (A). Lesion was removed with pEMR (B).

Registry with 100 patients⁵⁰, rectal residual mucosa (defined as visible mucosa or detected by histology from blinded biopsies) was found in 42 (84%) cases after stapled and in 21 (42%) cases after hand-sewn anastomosis.

Researchers from Japan¹⁶ found a 70% incidence of adenomas in the pouch body with one of the longest follow-up periods reported to date (> 20 years). Similarly, in a study from France, 74% of patients had at least one adenoma in the pouch, but with a mean follow-up of only 5.4 years. In contrast, one study found that isolated rectal cuff adenomas were more common than isolated pouch adenomas (49.1% *vs.* 6.8%), while 18.7% of patients had both pouch and rectal cuff adenomas. Cumulative 5-year, 10-year and 20-year risks for pouch adenomas were 32%, 52% and 68% in the Japanese study¹⁶, a slightly lower 5-year cumulative risk but a similarly high 10-year risk was observed in a Dutch study³¹; 16% and 42%, but the authors of this paper did not specifically define the exact location of the adenomas. The authors also reported a 10-year cumulative risk of developing precancerous adenomas of 12.8%.

On the other hand, the adenoma rates – at least in the stapled group – seem to be higher in the studies that only looked at the anastomosis and compared hand-sewn with stapled: 0–33% *vs.* 33.9–57%. In view of these figures, it is essential that patients with primary IPAA also undergo regular endoscopic surveillance. Particular attention should be paid to the rectal cuff and anastomosis, and the pouch should be examined in both forward and retroflexed position.

International guidelines most commonly recommend annual endoscopy examination, whereas ASCO guidelines⁹ advocate ‘case-by-case’ interval allocation. In 11 of only 12 studies that described a surveillance protocol, an interval of 12 months was recommended except in Brazil where endoscopy of the pouch was recommended every 2 years.

Interestingly, in the Netherlands pouch endoscopy was recommended every 1 to 3 years in the late 1990s but in 2001 the protocol was changed to annual endoscopic surveillance regardless of the anastomotic technique (hand-sewn or stapled).

One of the main concerns is the short interval (< 1 year) between the last normal endoscopy and the cancer diagnosis and the aggressive course of the disease despite an initial R0 resection (Supplementary Table 4). It is not entirely clear whether the adenoma-carcinoma sequence is faster in the ileal mucosa compared with the colon and rectum, or whether “negative” endoscopies prior to cancer diagnosis could be explained by the poor quality of pouch endoscopy. Chromoendoscopy improves the detection of diminutive adenomas³¹ and lymphoid hyperplastic nodules⁴⁵, but its use is discouraged^{33,35} for the same reasons as in the examination of rectal remnants – increased detection of clinically irrelevant polyps. Endoscopy should be performed with a gastroscope or paediatric colonoscope, as stricture can occur at the anastomosis, especially after hand suturing.

There are no official recommendations for endoscopic management of FAP patients after IPAA. We have found considerable heterogeneity in local practice. Italian authors recommend resection of

all adenomas > 3 mm.⁵¹ On the contrary, ablation with argon plasma coagulation is the preferred resection technique in a French study.¹⁷ Ablative techniques were also supported by the study from the Mayo Clinic.³⁰ In a small descriptive cohort of only 5 patients⁴², large-scale cold snare polypectomy with a mean of 110.6 (30–342) resected polyps demonstrated the efficacy of cold snare in controlling large polyp burden (> 30 polyps) with no reported polypectomy related complication. In our unit we do not use nor encourage use of argon plasma coagulation. We recommend resection of all polyps > 3 mm. Advanced resection techniques, when performed in the tertiary centres, may be a viable alternative prior to surgical resection. A case report of successful *en bloc* ESD of a 15 mm ‘non-lifting’ HGD adenoma in the ileal pouch has recently been published.⁵² Figure 3 (A and B) shows an EMR of 25 mm LST in a patient with FAP after IPAA. The polyp was located in the rectal cuff and extended from the anastomosis to the dentate line. The procedure was performed at our Endoscopy Unit. It should be emphasised that the wall of the ileum is very thin and special care must be taken when resecting larger lesions.

Although there is no randomised trial comparing different endoscopic surveillance intervals, it is unlikely that prospective data will be available in the future. The main reason is ethical issue, as these patients are at increased risk of colorectal cancer. However, with the introduction of high quality colonoscopy and improvements in endoscopy technique, a ‘negative’ endoscopy before cancer diagnosis should become highly unlikely if not impossible.

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