WHAT MOTIVATES REFERRALS OF COLONIC POLYPS? A NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF GI ENDOSCOPISTS

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Background

- Endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) can be safer and more cost-effective than surgery to treat benign colon polyps[1]
- However, 25-33% of patients whose colon polyps are surgically resected are found to have benign disease[2]
- Understanding what influences endoscopists to refer patients with a colonic polyp, rather than resect it themselves, could inform educational initiatives[3]

Objectives

Our objectives were to study what **factors influence** gastroenterologists to refer patients with colonic polyps and evaluate their interest **in additional endoscopic training**

Methods

- Gastroenterologists in the Mass General Brigham system were invited to complete a survey from June-Sept 2022
- The survey assessed practitioner background, factors in the referral of patients, & subjects' interest in further training
- Outcomes were analyzed with descriptive statistics

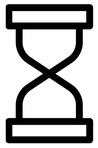
Results



53/159 (39%) completed the survey



70% of subjects work at an academic center



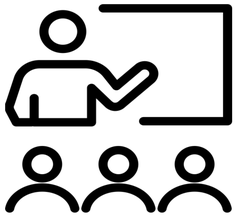
56% are 11+ years into practice



72% perform 1+ EMR per month

How Often Have These Reasons Influenced Your Referral of Patients with Colonic Polyps?	% of Participants Who Chose	
	Never, Rarely or Sometimes	Often or Always
"The polyp has malignant characteristics"	26	74
"Endoscopic resection of the polyp requires skills outside of my comfort level"	49	51
"Lack of necessary resources at my practice to perform endoscopic resections"	89	11
"Lack of adequate reimbursement for performing endoscopic resections"	100	0

Results



Strong interest in additional training in EMR (58% of subjects) & visual characterization of polyps as malignant (53% of subjects)

Conclusion

- The referral of patients with colon polyps is frequently influenced by gastroenterologists' ability to characterize polyps as malignant and comfort with endoscopic resection
- Practicing gastroenterologists have a strong interest in pursuing additional training in these skills

References

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