

Multiple Polyps and Colorectal Cancer

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Abstract

Introduction: Malignant degeneration as a possible course of evolution of colorectal polyps renders their diagnosis and therapeutic management a prophylactic act in the prevention of colorectal cancer (CRC).

Material and Method: The study was conducted over a period of 3 years (2008-2011), during which 1,368 colonoscopies were performed in our service. The aim of the study was to identify patients presenting multiple colorectal polyps and to determine their risk factors for developing CRC, as well as to establish the appropriate therapeutic conduct.

Results: Presence of multiple polyps was recorded in over 40% of the patients identified with colorectal polyps of any kind. Dysplastic modifications observed during the histopathology exam presented a high incidence in the case of patients with multiple polyps, ranging from low-grade-dysplasia to incipient CRC.

Conclusions: Dysplastic modifications and carcinomatous foci were identified mostly among patients with multiple polyps. Only benign lesions or in situ carcinomas benefited from endoscopic treatment, poorly differentiated carcinomas or those invading the submucosa being treated by conventional surgery. Patients diagnosed with colorectal polyps require a rigorous post-therapy follow-up protocol, able to identify any eventual polyposis recurrence.

Key words: colorectal polyp, colorectal cancer, polypectomy

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