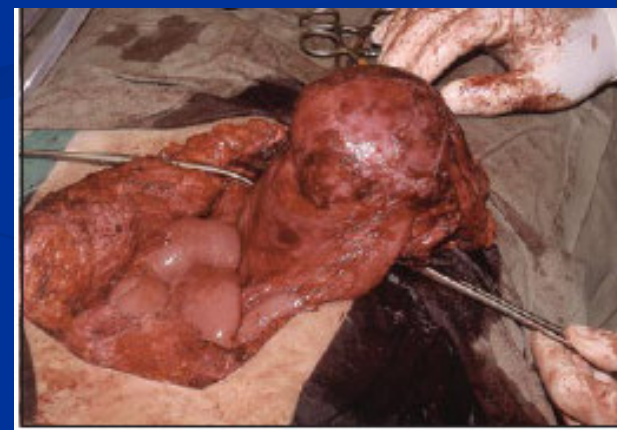
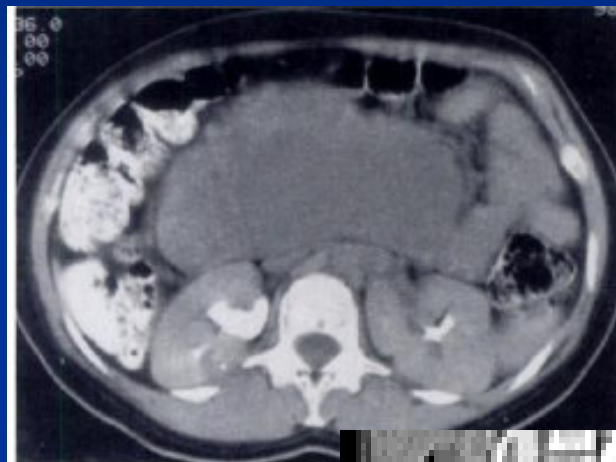


# DESMOIDI



L. Bertario

# Background

- **Desmoid tumors are histologically benign fibrous neoplasms** originating from the musculoaponeurotic structures throughout the body. The term desmoid, coined by Muller in 1838, is derived from the Greek word *desmos*, which means tendonlike.
- **Desmoid tumors often appear as infiltrative, usually well-differentiated, firm overgrowths of fibrous tissue, and they are locally aggressive.** The synonym aggressive fibromatosis describes the marked cellularity and aggressive local behavior. **This course and the tendency for recurrence make the treatment of these relatively rare fibrous tumors challenging.**

- **Peripheral desmoid tumors**

- Peripheral desmoid tumors are firm, smooth, and mobile.
- They often adhere to surrounding structures.
- The overlying skin is usually unaffected.
- **The presence of such a soft tissue growth should alert the clinician to delve more deeply into the family history for evidence of familial polyposis coli and Gardner syndrome.**
- Extra-abdominal desmoid tumors are rare and may be first evident as gradually increasing leg swelling.

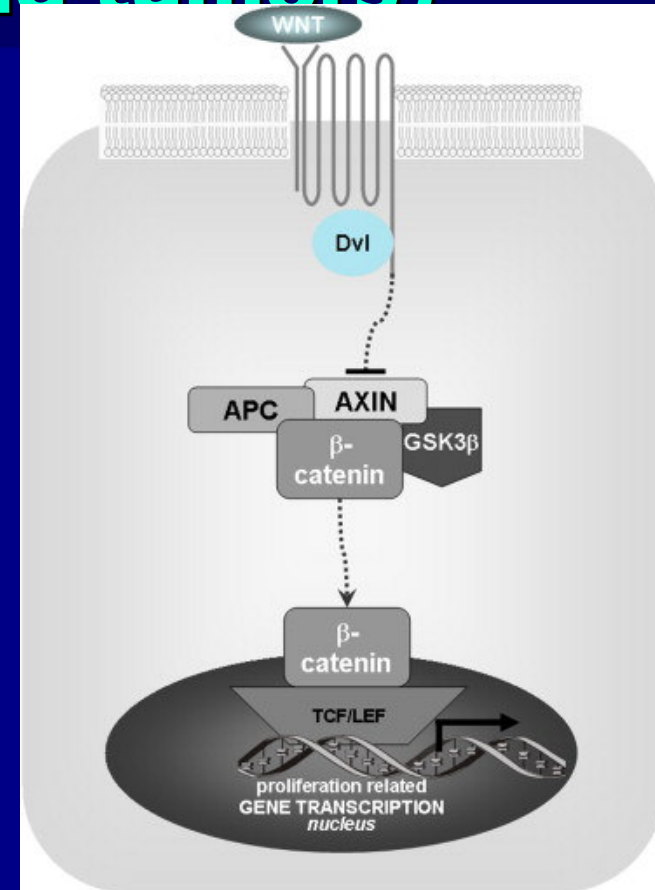
- **Intra-abdominal desmoid tumors may be seen. Extra-abdominal desmoid tumors may also be seen (rarely) in the urological system, including in the bladder and scrotum.**

- **Intra-abdominal desmoid tumors remain asymptomatic until their growth and infiltration cause visceral compression.**
- **Symptoms of intestinal, vascular, ureteric, or neural involvement may be the initial manifestations.**

# The role of APC and beta-catenin in the aetiology of aggressive fibromatosis (desmoid tumors)

- Aggressive fibromatosis is a benign neoplastic proliferation of fibroblastic cells surrounded by abundant collagen fibers, forming an invasively growing mass lacking the capability to metastasize. Mutations in either the APC or  $\beta$ -catenin genes are likely to be a major driving force in the formation of these desmoid tumors.

*CTNNB1 mutations are highly common (85%) in desmoid tumors. Patients harboring CTNNB1 (45F) mutations are at particular risk for recurrences (67%)*



D.J. Lips Eur J Surg Oncol. 2008

Alexander J.F (Am J Pathol 2008)

# EPIDEMIOLOGY

**Patients with familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) have an increased risk of developing desmoid disease**

- **Incidence from 3.6 to 13% have been reported by various polyposis registries**
- **Between 3.5 to 32% of FAP patients are estimated to be affected by desmoids**

## **Sporadic desmoids**

- **2-4 cases / 1,000,000 / yr.**
- **Mainly in women :**  
**female / male from 2:1 to 5:1**
- **Peak incidence :**  
**30 years of age**

Table 1  
Types of aggressive fibromatosis

*Sporadic disease*

Sporadic (idiopathic) aggressive fibromatosis	Somatic mutations APC and/or $\beta$ -catenin		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable phenotype</li> </ul>
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*Inherited disease*

Familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)	Gemline mutations APC	10–15% penetrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predominance of GI disease in clinical phenotype</li> <li>• Late onset (3rd–4th decade)</li> <li>• Mainly mesentery</li> </ul>
Familial infiltrative fibromatosis (FIF)/ Hereditary desmoid disease (HDD)	Gemline mutations APC	~100% penetrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predominance of desmoid disease in clinical phenotype</li> <li>• Early onset (1st–2nd decade)</li> <li>• Mainly in proximity axial skeleton</li> </ul>

APC, adenomatous polyposis coli; GI, gastrointestinal.

Table 3

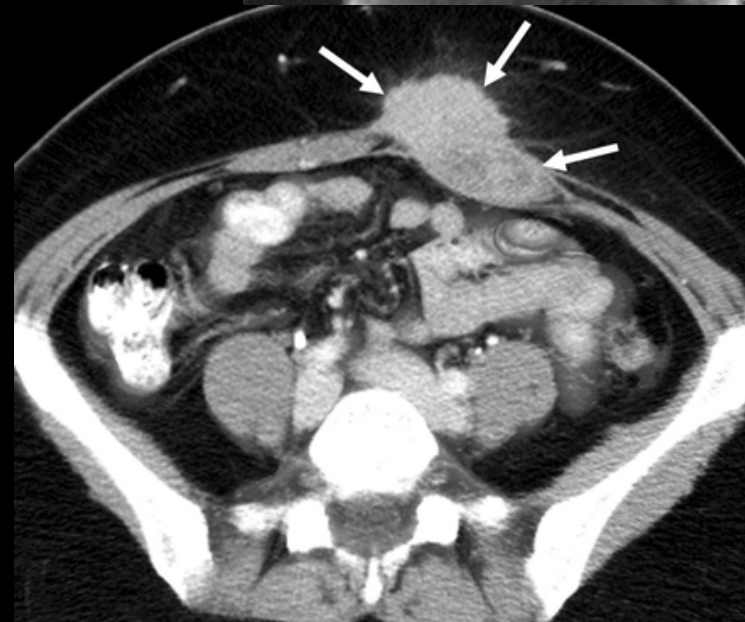
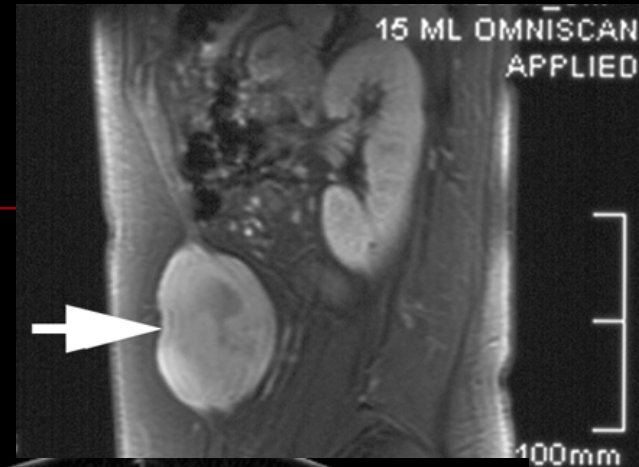
Prevalence of extracolonic manifestations in FAP patients (Vasen [4], Bertario [27])

Extracolonic manifestations	Prevalence (%)
CHRPE <sup>a</sup>	70–75
Osteoma and dental abnormalities	70–90
Upper GI tumours	
Duodenal adenoma	50–90
Fundic gland polyposis	40–50
Gastric antrum adenoma	5–20
Epidermoid cysts and lipoma	25–50
Desmoids	10–15
Other malignancies	
Thyroidcarcinoma, hepatoblastoma, brain tumours	3

<sup>a</sup> Congenital hypertrophy of the retinal pigment epithelium.

# Desmoid Risk factors

- **Trauma / abdominal surgery**
- Pregnancy
- Oral contraceptive
- Family history for desmoid
- **Specific APC gene mutation**
- Sex



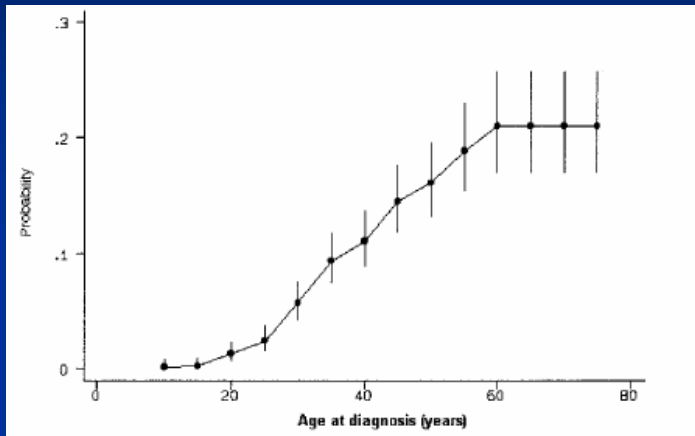


# Mortality/Morbidity

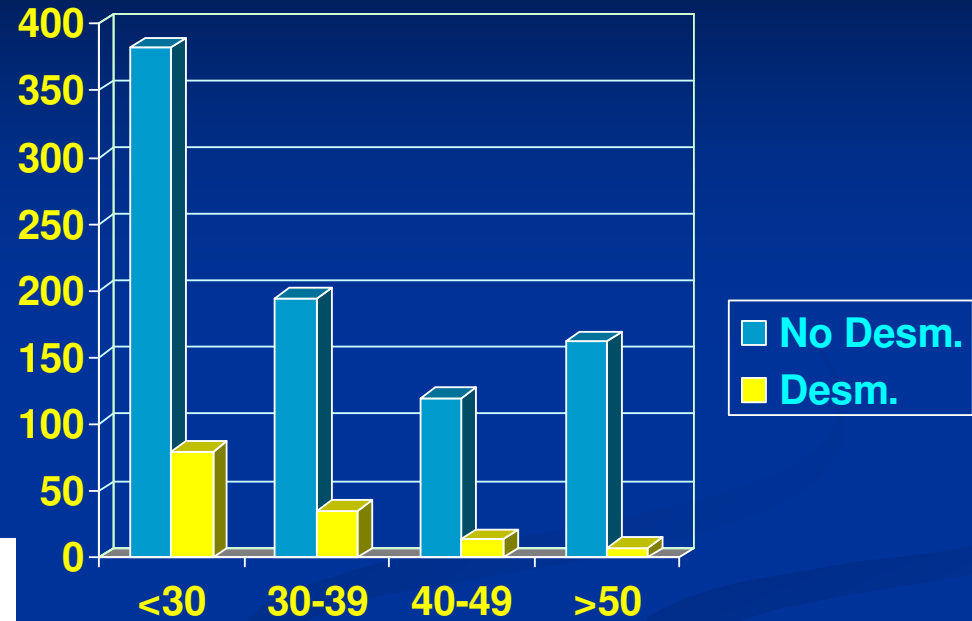
## FAP

- ▶ **The principal cause of mortality is colorectal cancer**, which develops in all patients unless they are treated. The mean age at which colorectal cancer develops in patients with classic FAP is 39 years. Patients with adenomatous polyposis itself often are asymptomatic.
- ▶ **The second reported lethal complication of FAP is diffuse mesenteric fibromatosis and is referred to as a desmoid tumor.** It involves intra-abdominal organs and vessels, causing gastrointestinal obstruction and constriction of veins, arteries, and ureters. **Desmoid tumors are reported in 4-32% of patients. Even after the appropriate surgical treatment of FAP, 20% of patients may develop desmoid tumors after colectomy.** Studies have found a correlation between specific *APC* mutation sites and desmoid tumor development. *Risk factors include a positive family history.* **The mortality from these tumors is 10-50%.** The second most common malignancy in patients with FAP is adenocarcinoma of the duodenum and the papilla of Vater. It affects as many as 12% of patients.
- ▶ Rarer cancers associated with FAP include medulloblastomas (Turcot syndrome), hepatoblastoma, thyroid cancer, gastric cancer, pancreatic cancer, and adrenal cancer

# Age & Desmoids



n.  
pts.



Age

OR : 0.24 ( 0.11-0.50)

73% desmoids < 40 yrs age

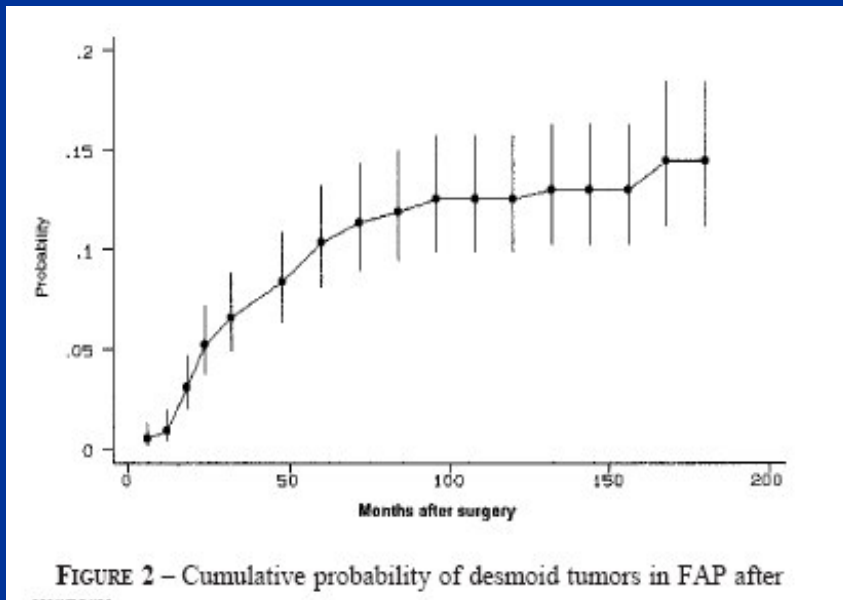
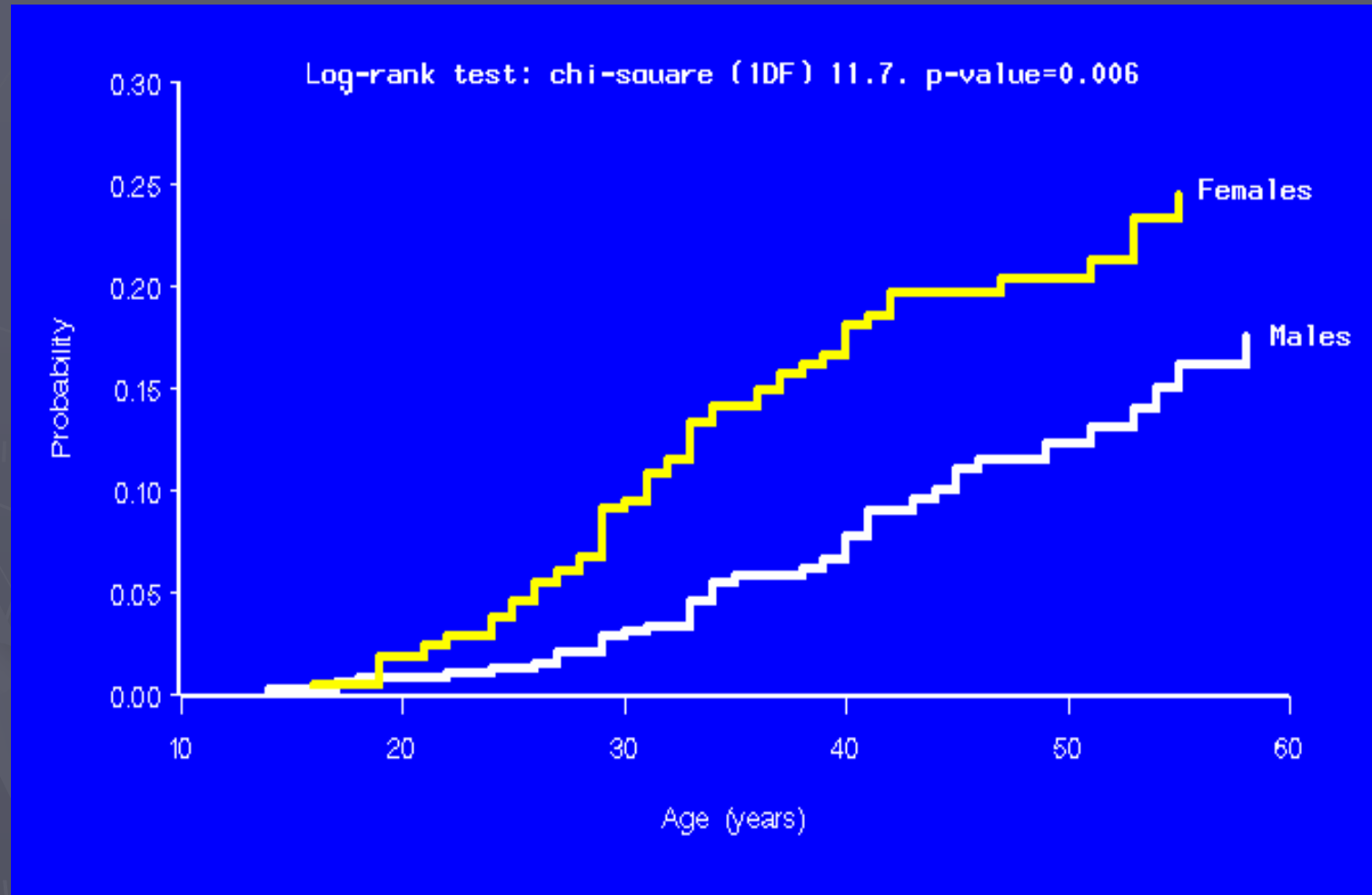


FIGURE 2 – Cumulative probability of desmoid tumors in FAP after surgery

Bertario L Int J Cancer 2001

# Cumulative life-time risk of desmoid tumours in FAP

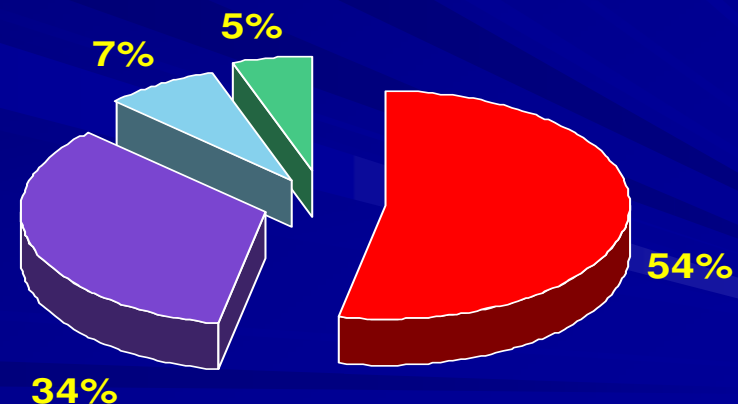


# Register Hereditary Colorectal Tumours

- n. 1417 FAP pts.
- n. 170 FAP pts with Desmoids. (12%)
- Cumulative risk : 20%
- n. 15 deaths x desmoids (9%)
  - n. 12 intra abd.
  - n 1 intra abd + abd. Wall
  - n. 2 Multiple

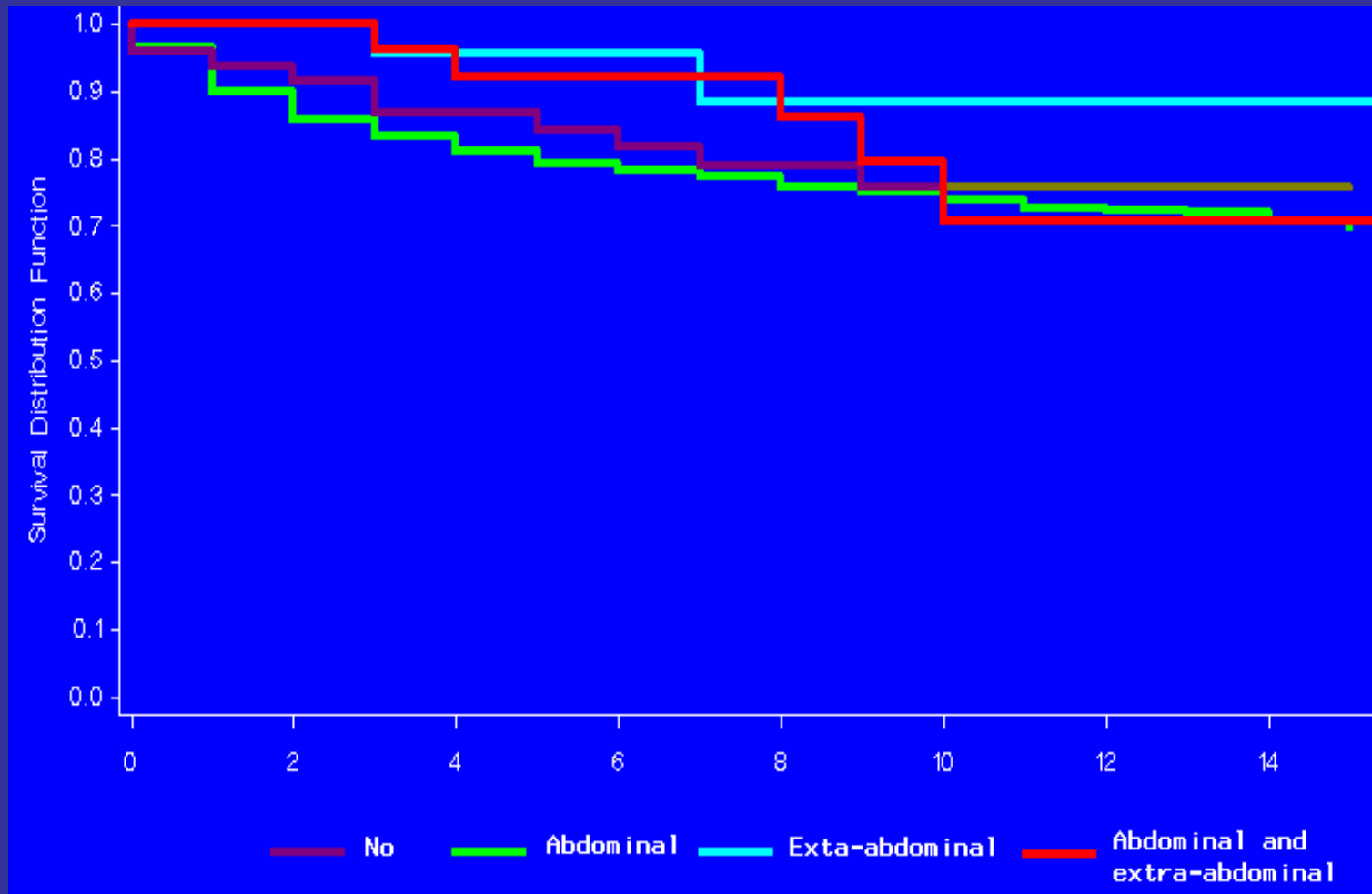
■ 37% PTS. MULTIPLE DESMOIDS

■ 90% DESMOIDS CORRELATED TO a SURGICAL SITE



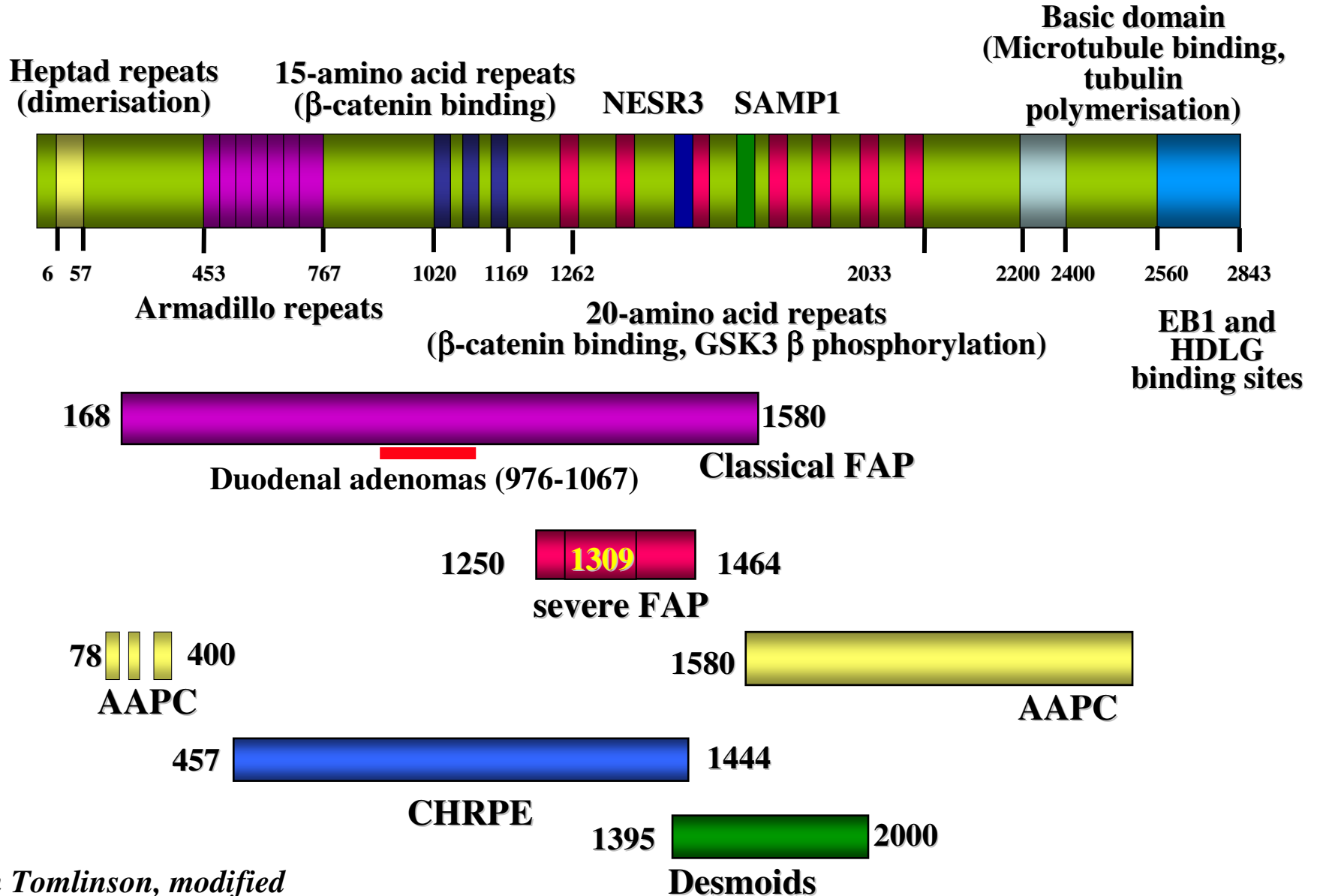
■ ABD. ■ ABD WALL ■ EXTRA ABD. ■ MULT

# Life table analysis of survival





# APC protein domains and FAP phenotype association with (truncating) germline mutation position



by Ian Tomlinson, modified

# Correlations between mutation site in APC and phenotype of familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP): A review of the literature

M.H. Nieuwenhuis<sup>a</sup>, H.F.A. Vasen<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

	<b>codon</b>	<b>Authors</b>
Desmoid tumours	1924, 1962	Eccles 1996, Scott 1996
	1445-1578	Caspari 1995
	1444-1560	Davies 1995, Gebert 1999
	1403-1987	Dobbie 1996, Heinimann 1998, Moisio 2002
	1395-1493	Wallis 1999
	1310-2011	Bertario 2003

**The occurrence of desmoids in FAP has been linked to mutations at the 3 end of the APC gene , in general downstream codon 1400. *This correlation does not always appear to be consistent.***

**Critical Reviews in Oncology/Hematology 61  
(2007) 153-161**



# Conclusions

## Desmoid Risk Factors

<b>Factors</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>95 % CI</b>
Osteoma	2.06	1.26 - 3.38
Sex	2.55	1.56 - 4.18
<b>Apc mutations Yes v. No</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3.2 - 25</b>
<b>Apc &gt;1444</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7.5 - 88</b>



# Mutations of adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) gene are uncommon in sporadic desmoid tumours

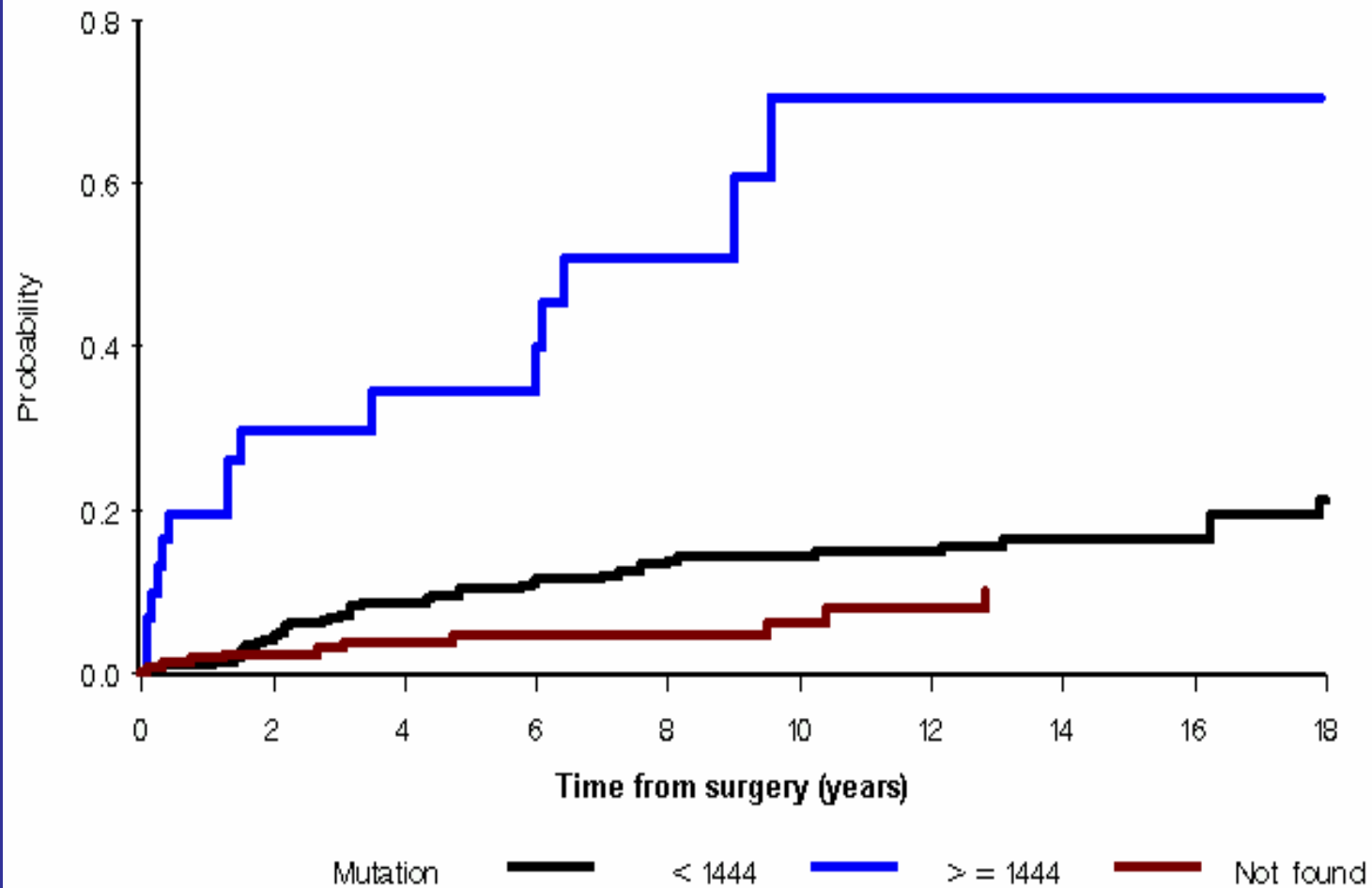
**16 sporadic and four FAP-related desmoids** were analysed in order to investigate the possible involvement of APC in non-syndromic cases also.

**Somatic mutations were found in three FAP-associated desmoids (75%)** and two sporadic tumours (12.5%). In one of the latter cases, both alleles were affected.

FAP-related cases	Type of mutation	Codons affected	Nucleotide Change
1	germline	1538	del(GA)
2	germline	935	TAC→TAA
	somatic	1558	ins(A)
3	germline	213	CGA→TGA
	somatic	1534	del(G)
4	germline	1464-1465	del(AGAG)
	somatic	1309-11	del(AAAGA)
Non FAP-related cases	Type of mutation	Codons affected	Nucleotide Change
1	somatic	1450	CGA→TGA
2	somatic	1142-1149	del23 bp
	somatic	1469	CAA→TAA



## Cumulative life-time risk of desmoid tumours in FAP



# I.R.A. v. I.P.A.A. : 787 patients with diagnosis of classical FAP



	IRA	IAA	P-value
Age	33.5-13.2	30.6-11.3	0.02
Sex (M/F)	304/236	137/110	0.9
CRC at diagnosis (Yes/No)	150/390	90/157	0.02
Stage CRC (AB/CD)	77/73	46/44	1.0
Metachronous ca. (Yes/No)	37/503 (6%)	3/244 (1%)	0.0002
<b>Desmoids (Yes/No)</b>	<b>68/472</b>	<b>42/204</b>	<b>0.08</b>
Surgical mortality (<30 days) (Yes/No)	3/537	2/245	0.07
Genotype : 1309/others	47/379	37/139	0.002
Successive surgery	60/480	3/244	<0.001

# SURGERY & DESMOIDS

	OR	95% CI
<b>IRA/ISA</b>	17.63	2.34-132.76
<b>IAA</b>	24.35	3.19-185.82
Other surgery	13.99	1.77-110.61
<b>SURGERY</b>	<b>19.12</b>	<b>2.56-142.5</b>

## Significance of Incidental Desmoids Identified During Surgery for Familial Adenomatous Polyposis

- A recent systematic study of the incidence of IADs in patients undergoing laparotomy for FAP from our own institution found unexpected and therefore subclinical. IADs to be present in 3 % of patients at the time of their first operation and in 36% of those who required a second operation

## Risk factors for development of desmoid tumours in familial adenomatous polyposis

- **Conclusion: No risk factor for life-threatening mesenteric DT could meaningfully modify the management of patients with FAP**
- The only modifiable factor is the type of surgical procedure, but this did not have a significant influence on the risk of DT.



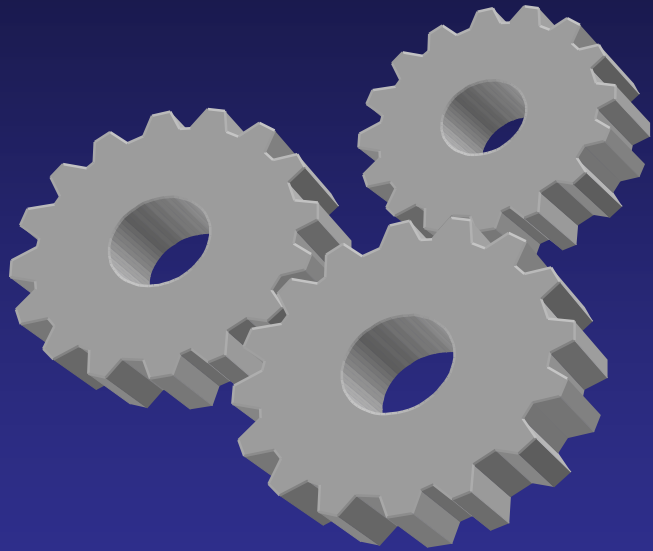
# Does Early Colectomy Increase Desmoid Risk in Familial Adenomatous Polyposis?

Durno C 2007

- Female patients were more likely to develop desmoids than male patients (17% vs 11%,  $P = .03$ )
- Female patients who had an early colectomy were more than 2 times more likely to develop a desmoid, compared with women who had a colectomy at >18 years ( $P .01$ ).
- Female patients who had an early colectomy (<18 years) were 2.5 times more likely to develop desmoids, compared with male patients who had a late colectomy ( $P .05$ ).
- The prevalence of desmoids in the 5' and 3' groups was 13% and 38%, respectively ( $P .0005$ ). *Patients with a mutation after codon 1399 were found to have 4 times greater chance of developing a desmoid.*

Delayed colectomy might be considered in young female patients with FAP to decrease the chances of developing desmoids.

# TREATMENT



CONTROVERSIAL

EMPIRICAL

DIFFICULT

**In the beginning there was  
colectomy**

# Desmoid clinical course

---

- 10% of tumours resolve spontaneously,
- 30% undergo cycles of progression and resolution
- 50% remain stable after diagnosis
- 10% progress rapidly

N. Julian Familial Cancer  
(2006)

# Management

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- Given the problems with the treatment of desmoids, there is a good case for **simple observation of many tumours, particularly if asymptomatic.**
- Following diagnosis, a small tumour which is not encroaching on any nearby structures may be followed up by **regular clinical examination (perhaps every 6 months)** with or without imaging, usually by CT
- **Rapidly growing tumours, or those which are symptomatic, usually warrant treatment**
- **Symptoms need to be managed**

## Guidelines for the clinical management of familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)

Hans F A Vasen, Gabriela Moeslein, Angel Alonso, Stefan Aretz, Inge Bernstein, Lucio Bertario, Ignacio Blanco, Steffen Bulow, John Burn, Gabriel Capella, Chrystelle Colas, Christoph Engel, Ian Frayling, Waltraut Friedl, Frederik Hes, Shirley Hodgson, Heiki Jarvinen, Jukka-Pekka Mecklin, Pal Moller, Torben Myrhoj, Fokko M Nagengast, Yann Parc, Robin Phillips, Sue Clark, Maurizio Ponz de Leon, Laura Renkonen-Sinisalo, Julian Sampson, Astrid Stormorken, Sabine Tejpar, Huw Thomas and Juul Wijnen

*Gut* published online 14 Jan 2008;  
doi:10.1136/gut.2007.136127

**QUESTION:** *What is the appropriate treatment of desmoid tumours?*

In contrast to sporadic desmoid tumours, **the majority of the tumours associated with FAP are located in the abdominal wall or intra-abdominally.**

The options for treatment are pharmacological treatment (NSAIDs and/or anti-estrogens ), chemotherapy, surgical excision or radiotherapy Evidence for the efficacy of these treatments is poor and is based on small, non-controlled studies An additional problem for the evaluation of efficacy is that desmoids have a variable natural history with some tumors showing spontaneous regression in the absence of treatment.

## **Guidelines for the clinical management of familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)**

Hans F A Vasen, Gabriela Moeslein, Angel Alonso, Stefan Aretz, Inge Bernstein, Lucio Bertario, Ignacio Blanco, Steffen Bulow, John Burn, Gabriel Capella, Chrystelle Colas, Christoph Engel, Ian Frayling, Waltraut Friedl, Frederik Hes, Shirley Hodgson, Heiki Jarvinen, Jukka-Pekka Mecklin, Pal Moller, Torben Myrhoj, Fokko M Nagengast, Yann Parc, Robin Phillips, Sue Clark, Maurizio Ponz de Leon, Laura Renkonen-Sinisalo, Julian Sampson, Astrid Stormorken, Sabine Tejpar, Huw Thomas and Juul Wijnen

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- Currently, the first line of treatment in patients with large or growing intra-abdominal or abdominal wall tumours is sulindac (300 mg) usually in combination with tamoxifen (40-120 mg) or toremifene (180 mg) (52-54;57). In patients with progressive intra-abdominal tumours that do not respond to this treatment, chemotherapy (e.g. doxorubicine and dacarbazine or methotrexate and vinblastin) or radiation therapy is indicated

## Guidelines for the clinical management of familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)

Hans F A Vasen, Gabriela Moeslein, Angel Alonso, Stefan Aretz, Inge Bernstein, Lucio Bertario, Ignacio Blanco, Steffen Bulow, John Burn, Gabriel Capella, Chrystelle Colas, Christoph Engel, Ian Frayling, Waltraut Friedl, Frederik Hes, Shirley Hodgson, Heiki Jarvinen, Jukka-Pekka Mecklin, Pal Moller, Torben Myrhoj, Fokko M Nagengast, Yann Parc, Robin Phillips, Sue Clark, Maurizio Ponz de Leon, Laura Renkonen-Sinisalo, Julian Sampson, Astrid Stormorken, Sabine Tejpar, Huw Thomas and Juul Wijnen

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### ■ CONCLUSION:

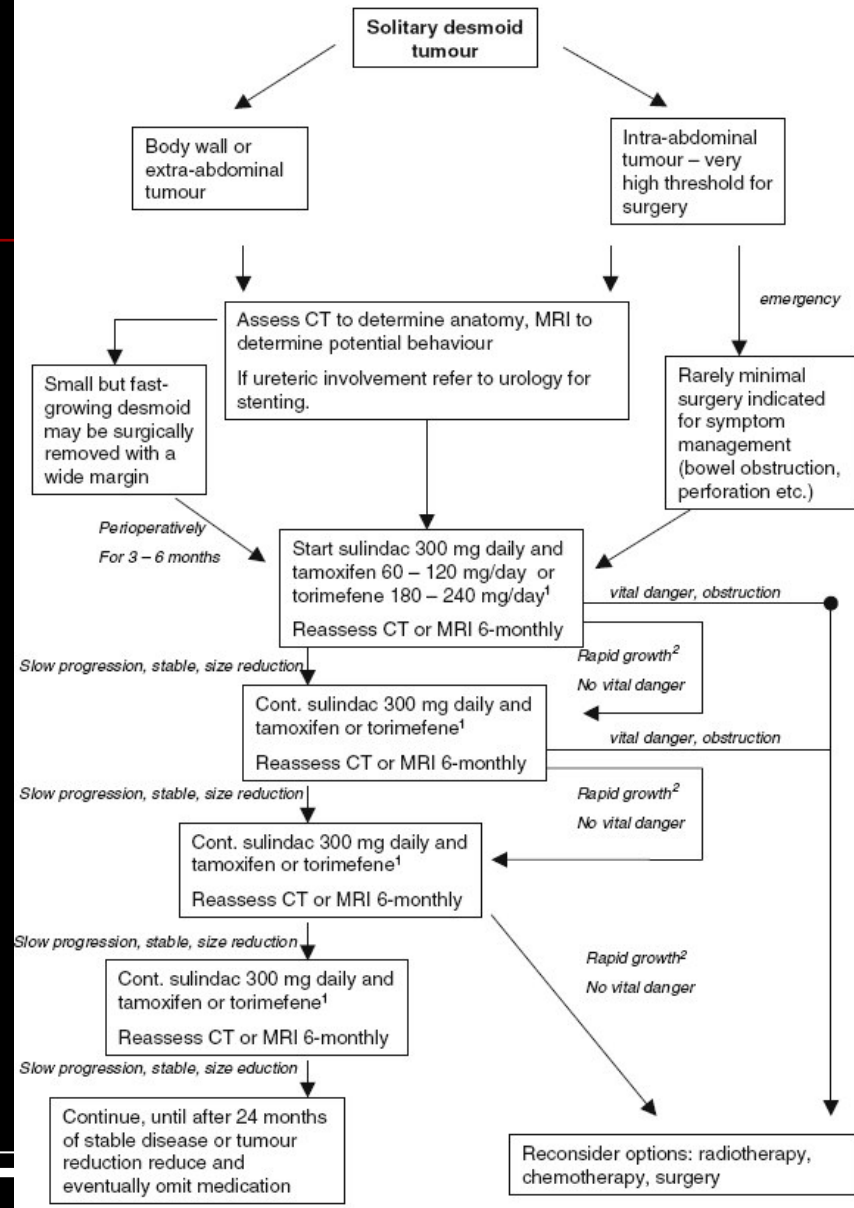
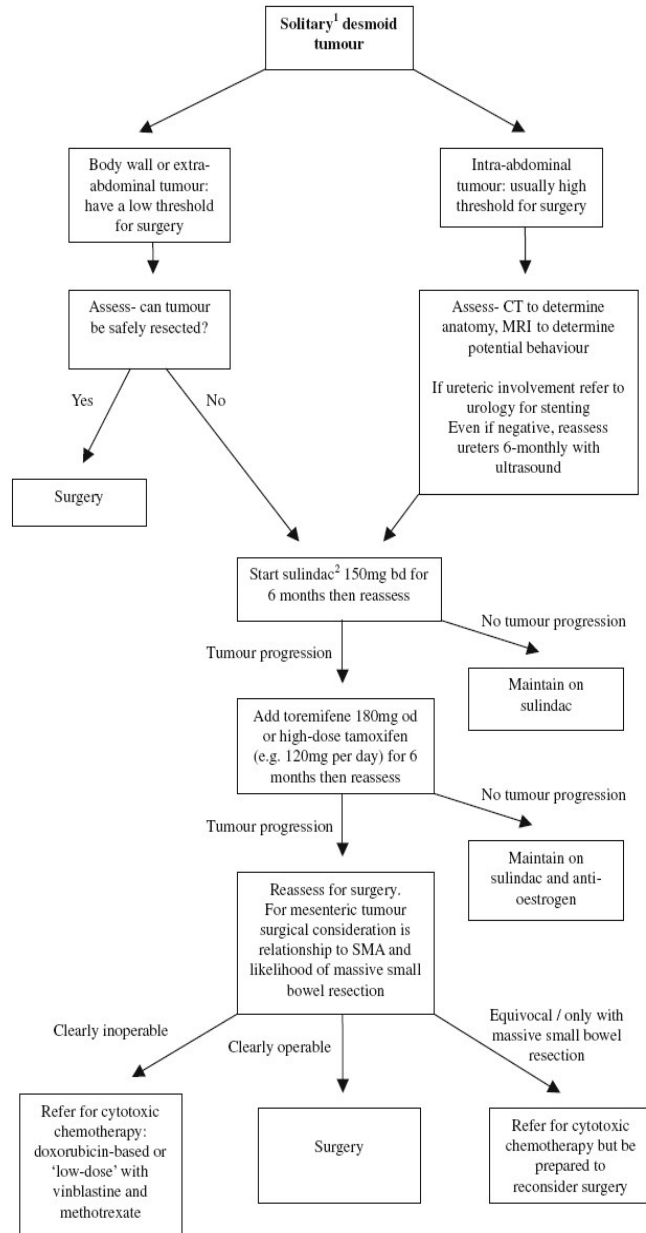
*Non-randomised, non-controlled studies suggest that **sulindac in combination with tamoxifen is effective in FAP patients with intra-abdominal desmoids and desmoids located at the abdominal wall** (Category of evidence III). Also small non-controlled studies indicate that chemotherapy or radiotherapy may be of benefit in those with progressive growing desmoids (Category of evidence III). The role of surgery of (intra)-abdominal-(wall) tumors is controversial (Category of evidence III)*

# Desmoids Dilemma

- The definition of desmoid disease has been used inconsistently.
- In some patients, desmoid tumors do not progress or are very slow growing and may not need therapy.
- There is no consistent, systematic way to evaluate the response to therapy.
- There is no single institution that will enroll enough patients to perform a randomized trial

No randomized clinical trials using these agents have been performed and their use in clinical practice is based on anecdotal experience only.





## DESMOID TUMOURS: TO OPERATE OR NOT TO OPERATE

Rafiq H Abed, Adesegun Abudu, Simon Carter, Rob Grimer,  
Roger Tillman, Lee Jeys

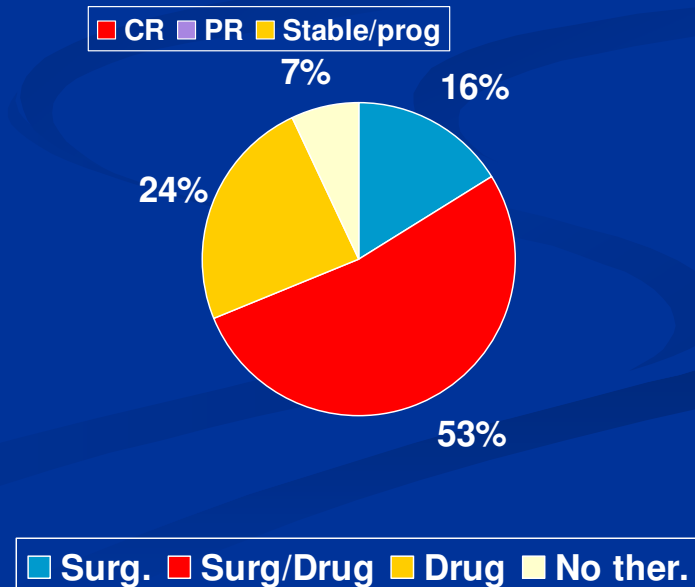
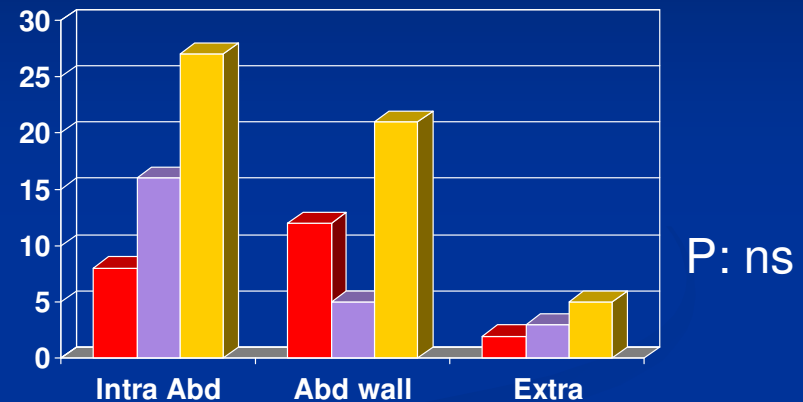
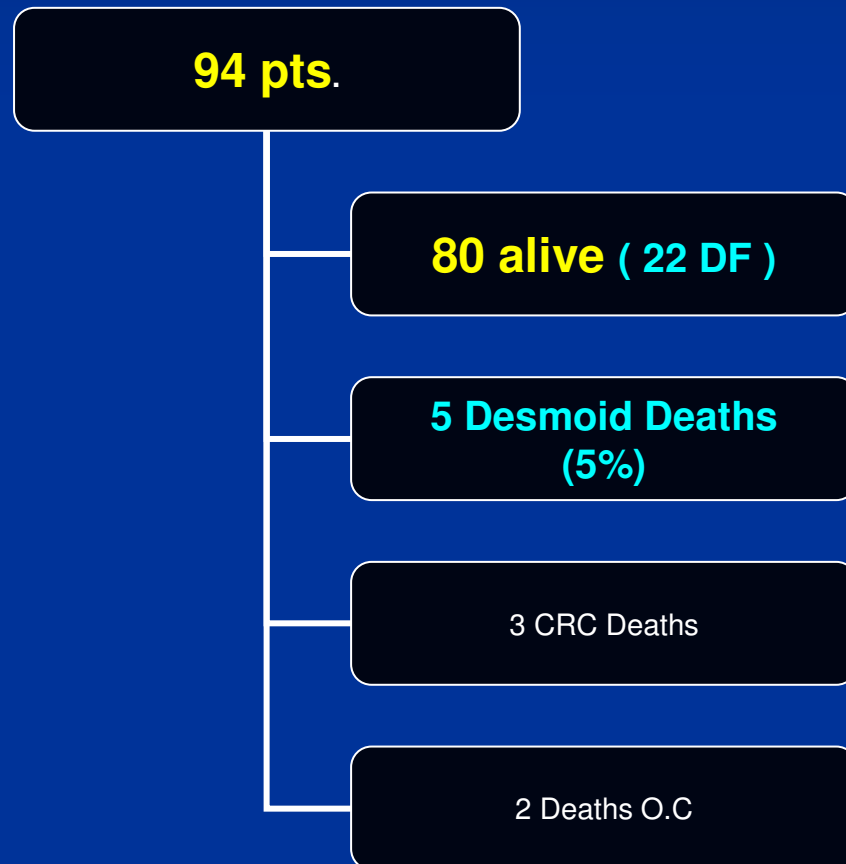
*The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, United Kingdom*

- 160 patients were studied at mean follow up of 49 months and mean age 36 years. Male to female ratio was 1:1
- 147 patients had surgical treatment with very few having adjuvant radiotherapy. **Overall recurrence rate was 41%.**
- Recurrence was more common in females. **Margins of resection had no influence on recurrence**
- Our series experience is that recurrence is common after surgery even with radiotherapy. Surgical margins did not influence local recurrence. **Observation alone appears to be the best policy for those with painless desmoid tumours.**

CTOS 14th Annual Meeting  
November 13 — 15, 2008

# Register Hereditary Colorectal Tumours Desmoids

## ■ INT Milan : n. 94 FAP pts



## A Desmoid Tumor-Staging System Separates Patients with Intra-Abdominal, Familial Adenomatous Polyposis-Associated Desmoid Disease by Behavior and Prognosis

James Church, M.B.Ch.B. • Craig Lynch, M.B.Ch.B. • Paul Neary, M.B.Ch.B. • Lisa LaGuardia, B.S.N. • Elodie Elayi, M.S.

**Table 1. Desmoid tumor staging system<sup>8</sup>**

Stage	
I	Asymptomatic, <10 cm maximum diameter, and not growing
II	Mildly symptomatic, <10 cm maximum diameter, and not growing
III	Moderately symptomatic or bowel/ureteric obstruction, or 10 to 20 cm, or slowly growing
IV	Severely symptomatic, or >20 cm, or rapidly growing

*Mildly symptomatic = sensation of mass, pain, but no restrictions; moderately symptomatic = sensation of mass, pain; restrictive but not hospitalized; severely symptomatic = sensation of mass, pain; restrictive and hospitalized.*

**CONCLUSION:** Desmoid staging identifies tumors by prognosis and its use for designing prospective treatment studies is reasonable.

**Table 4. Course of the intra-abdominal desmoid disease according to stage**

Stage	Disappeared/stable	Growing	Rapid Growth
I	17 (81)	4 (19)	
II	28 (78)	5 (14)	
III	11 (42)	11 (42)	
IV	5 (28)	7 (39)	
P value	0.002*	38.806	

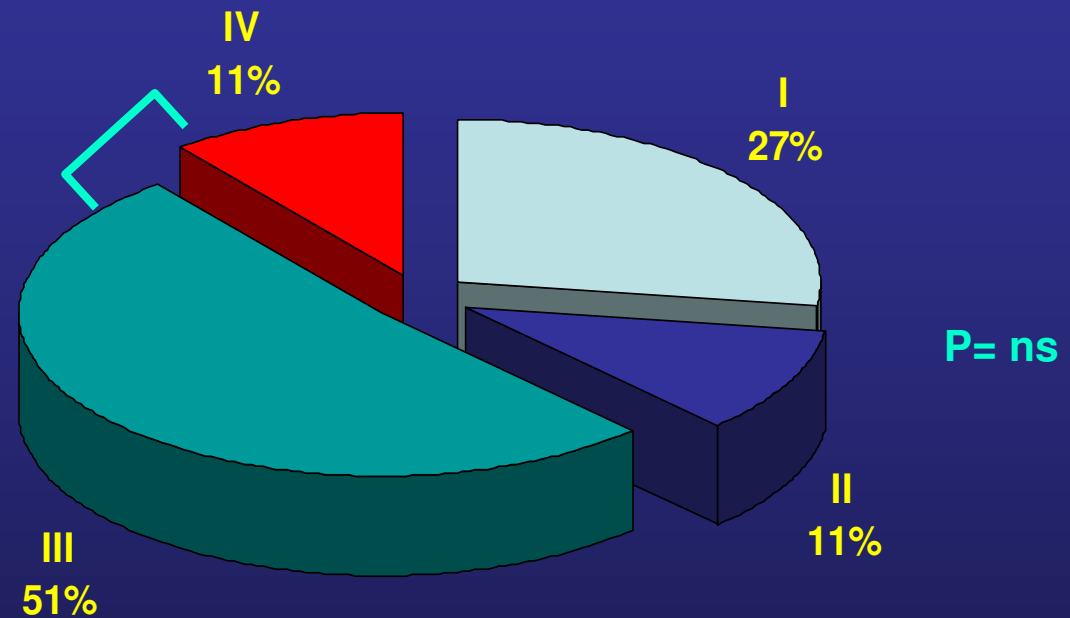
*Data are numbers with percentages in parentheses. • \* Chi-squared.*

**Table 6. Treatment of intra-abdominal desmoids according to stage (many patients had combinations of treatments)**

Stage	n	None	Medical	Surgery	Chemo	Radiation
I	21	12	8	6	0	0
II	36	5	26	20	1	0
III	26	1	16	12	7	4
IV	18	0	15	13	5	3
Total	101	18	65	51	13	7

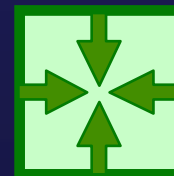
# Intra abdominal Desmoid Staging

Stage III-IV : 5 Deaths (12%)



Stage III: 11-20 cm slowly growing

Stage IV: > 20 cm fast growing



RHCT INT Milan

## Cyclooxygenase-2 and Platelet-Derived Growth Factor Receptors as Potential Targets in Treating Aggressive Fibromatosis

**Abstract Purpose:** To explore the molecular bases of potential new pharmacologic targets in aggressive fibromatosis (desmoid tumor).

**Experimental Design:** Tumor specimens from 14 patients surgically treated for aggressive fibromatosis (6 familial adenomatous polyposis and 8 sporadic cases), analyzed for adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) and *CTNNB1* (*β-catenin*) mutations, were further investigated for *β-catenin*, cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) receptor  $\alpha$  (PDGFRA)/PDGF receptor  $\beta$  (PDGFRB), their cognate ligands (PDGFA and PDGFB), and KIT using a comprehensive immunohistochemical, biochemical, molecular, and cytogenetic approach.

**Results:** No *CTNNB1* (*β-catenin*) mutations were found in the familial adenomatous polyposis patients, but previously reported activating mutations were found in six of the eight sporadic patients. All of the cases carrying an altered WNT pathway showed nuclear and cytoplasmic immunoreactivity for *β-catenin*, whereas *β-catenin* expression was restricted to the cytoplasm in the sporadic patients lacking *CTNNB1* mutations. COX-2 protein and mRNA overexpression was detected in all 14 cases, together with the expression and phosphorylation of PDGFRA and PDGFRB, which in turn paralleled the presence of their cognate ligands. No *PDGFRB* mutations were found. The results are consistent with PDGFRA and PDGFRB activation sustained by an autocrine/paracrine loop.

**Conclusions:** Aggressive fibromatosis is characterized by WNT/oncogene pathway alterations triggering COX-2-mediated constitutive coactivation of PDGFRA and PDGFRB, and may therefore benefit from combined nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug + tyrosine kinase inhibitor treatment.



## Hormonal Receptor analysis

All the cases were investigated for Androgen, Estrogen and Progesterone receptors expression by immunohistochemistry.

The results showed a NULL IMMUNOPHENOTYPE for the three receptors in all cases, in keeping with the literature

**Table 5.** Estrogen and progesterone receptor status in desmoid tumors.

Study	ER- $\alpha$	ER- $\beta$	PR
Fong et al., 1993	0/6	0/6	0/6
Serpell et al., 1999	0/24	-	0/24
Sorensen et al., 2002	0/72	0/72	-
Picariello et al., 2004	0/7	3/7 (42%)	-
Leithner et al., 2005	0/116	7/116 (6%)	0/116
Ishizuka et al., 2006	2/27 (7.4%)	2/27 (7.4%)	7/27 (25.9%)
Deyrup et al., 2006	0/40	40/40	-

# CONCLUSIONS

*The perfect is the enemy of the good.*

*Voltaire*