

# **SIGNS, SYMPTOMS, TESTS AND PRESCRIPTIONS RECORDED IN THE YEAR PRIOR TO THE DIAGNOSIS OF EARLY-ONSET COLORECTAL CANCER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Carlos Guarner-Argente

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Poster

Colorectal

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**Study of 16,772 early-onset colorectal cancer cases in UK databases found rectal haemorrhage, abdominal pain, anaemia markers, and symptomatic prescriptions were recorded in the year before diagnosis but clinical suspicion remained low in under-50 patients.**

## **KEY POINTS**

- In the year before diagnosis, rectal haemorrhage was recorded in 11.5% of cases (21-fold increased risk), abdominal pain in 10.7% (8-fold increased risk), and constipation in 4.8% (8-fold increased risk).
- Iron deficiency anaemia and IBS diagnoses occurred in approximately 4.5% of cases each, with serum ferritin testing performed in 15.8-22.7% of patients depending on database.
- Prescriptions for symptomatic treatments including laxatives and antispasmodics were observed in 3.3-7.7% of cases with 5- to 12-fold increased risk compared to controls.
- Symptoms were frequently attributed to alternative diagnoses such as haemorrhoids or coeliac disease, and authors suggest combinations of clinical features may be more informative than individual symptoms.
- Study analysed three UK real-world databases focusing on patients aged 18-49 at diagnosis; findings were consistent across all databases.

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