TISSUE MICRO-RNAS AS MARKERS OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORING OF COLORECTAL CANCER IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

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A retrospective tissue study of nine microRNAs in IBD patients found that miR-135b and miR-21 were significantly upregulated across the progression from non-dysplastic tissue through adenoma and dysplasia to IBD-related colorectal cancer.

KEY POINTS

- All nine microRNAs analysed were significantly upregulated in IBD patients with adenoma, IBD-related CRC, and sporadic CRC compared to healthy controls, but only three microRNAs (miR-135b, miR-21, miR-224) were significantly upregulated in IBD patients with dysplasia ($p<0.0001$).
- miR-135b showed an increasing trend in IBD patients from tissue without lesions through adenoma or dysplasia to neoplastic lesions.
- miR-21 was significantly upregulated in IBD-related CRC compared to IBD patients with adenoma ($p=0.003$), to previous negative colonoscopy samples ($p=0.006$), and to patients with dysplasia ($p=0.02$).
- No differences in microRNA expression were found between IBD-related CRC and sporadic CRC.
- The authors suggest miR-21 and miR-135b could be potential biomarkers for diagnostic and prognostic purposes in IBD-related CRC, though they acknowledge further larger prospective studies are needed.

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