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Evaluation of the completeness and quality of histopathology reporting of colorectal cancer resection specimens in a Sri Lankan tertiary care setting

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Introduction and objectives: A comprehensive histopathology report is essential for the management and prognosis of colorectal cancer (CRC). This study assesses the completeness of CRC histopathology reports, summarises key statistical data, and compares the findings with 2023 Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) CRC audit standards.

Methodology: This descriptive cross-sectional study retrospectively evaluated twenty-eight reports of CRC resections with no history of neoadjuvant therapy, issued by the Department of Histopathology, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, from January 2023 to May 2024, using the April 2023 "Dataset for Histopathological Reporting of Colorectal Cancer" standards.

Results: Twenty-six items were assessed, and the overall completeness of reporting was 94.79%. The least reported items were maximum distance of tumour invasion beyond muscularis propria, distance from carcinoma to circumferential resection margin, and site of deepest lymphovascular invasion and perineural invasion. Descriptive statistics revealed a mean age of 63 years (IQR 55-68 year). 19/28 (67.85%) of cases were pT3, 15/28 (53.57%) were pN0. According to CRC audit standards there was a mean of lymph node yield (LNY) of 20, peritoneal involvement was present in 4/28 (14.28%) and venous invasion in 3/25 (12%)

Discussion and conclusions: The sample size was insufficient to comment on specific 2023 RCPATH CRC audit standards. However, the median LNY was achieved, while the other two standards (peritoneal involvement and venous invasion) were not yet achieved in our setting. The completeness of the reporting was satisfactory. A re-audit will be conducted with a larger sample size to assess RCPATH 2023 specific audit standards.

Keywords: colorectal cancer, audit, specific audit standards

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