

# **Colorectal Cancer in 2006: New Developments**

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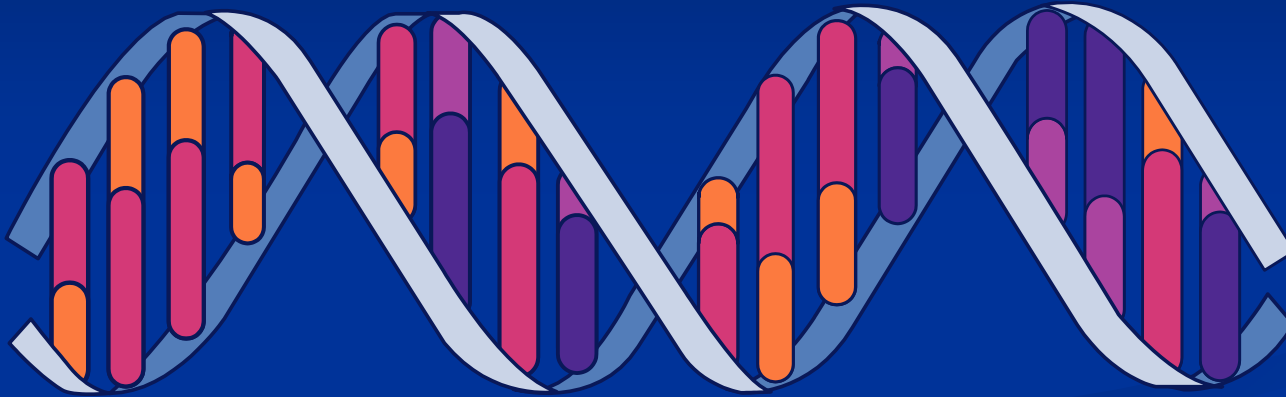
**James J. Stark, MD**



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# Hereditary Colon Cancer and Genetic Testing



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# Who is at High Risk for Hereditary Cancer?



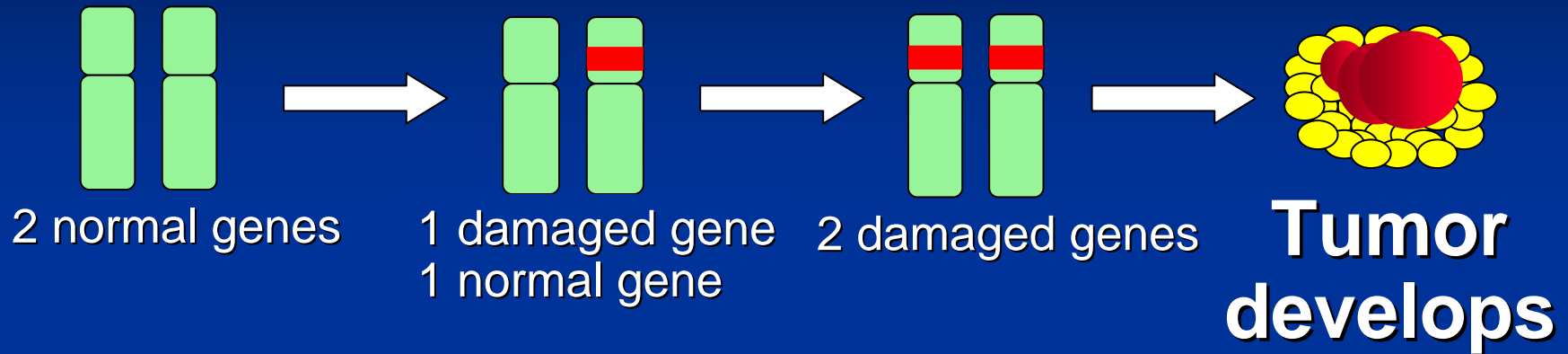
**Hereditary cancers  
account for a small  
but important  
proportion of all  
cancer**



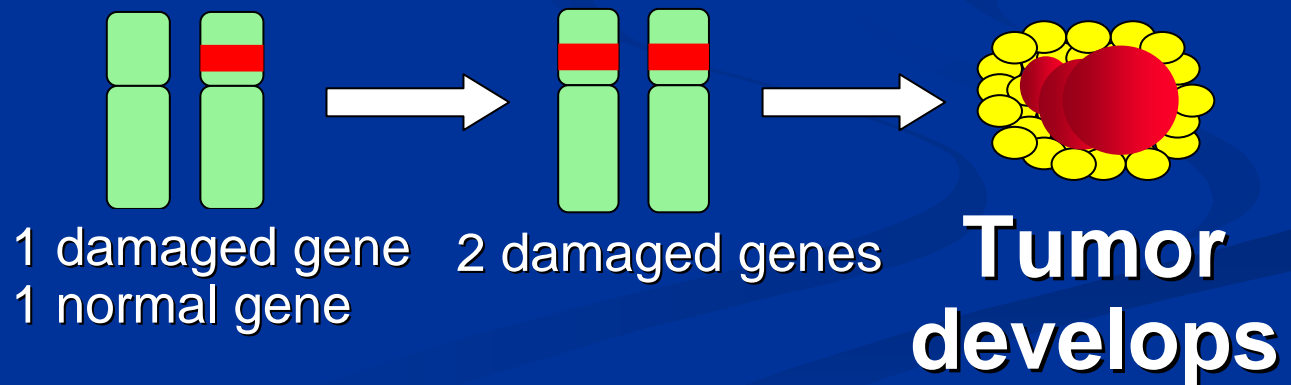
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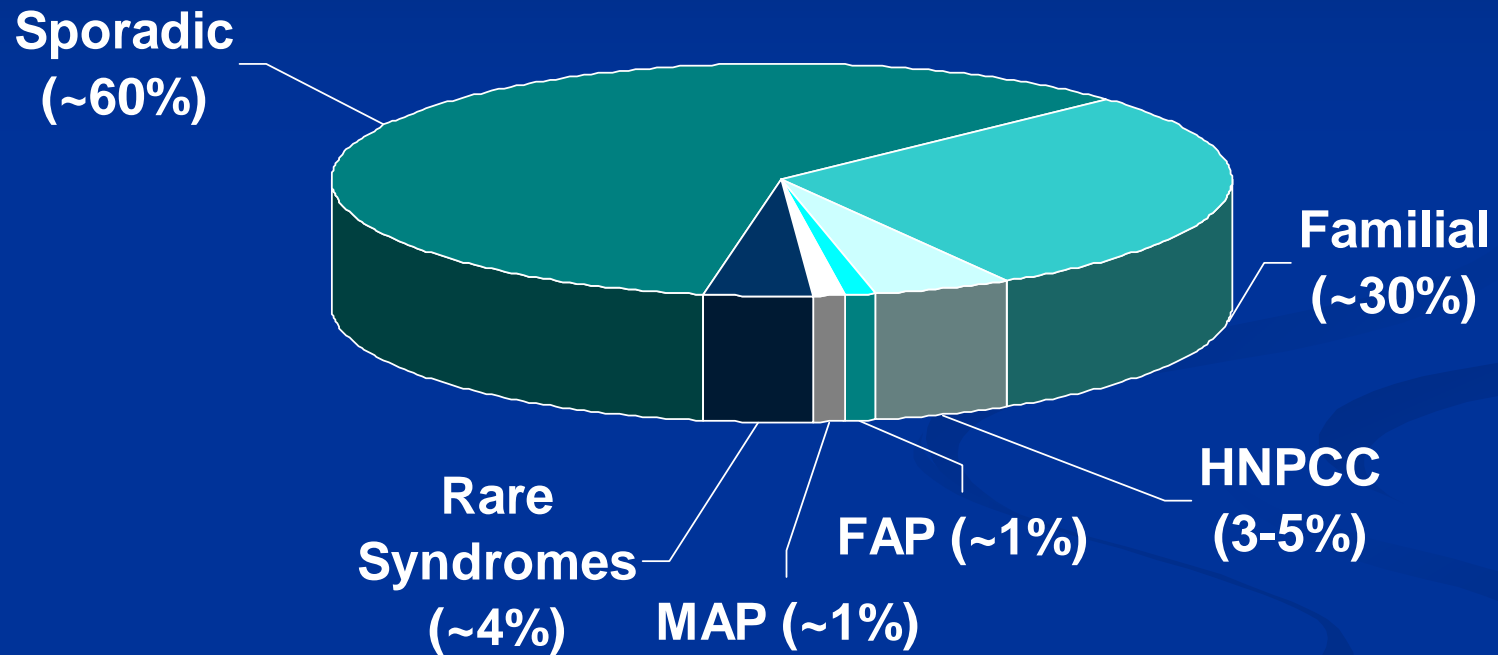
# Cancer arises when both copies of genes are inactivated



*In hereditary cancer, one damaged gene is inherited.*



# Colorectal Cancer



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# Hereditary Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Syndromes

Nonpolyposis (few to no adenomas)

HNPCC – CRC and/or endometrial cancer (EC)

Polyposis (multiple adenomas)

FAP – Severe colonic polyposis +/- CRC

AFAP – Less severe colonic polyposis +/- CRC

MAP – Varying degrees of colonic polyposis +/- CRC



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# Features Suggestive of HNPCC

- Early onset colorectal cancer (<50y)
- Early onset endometrial cancer (<50y)
- Two or more HNPCC cancers in an individual or family\*

**\*HNPCC cancers: colorectal, endometrial, gastric, ovarian, ureter/renal pelvis, biliary tract, small bowel, pancreas, brain, sebaceous adenoma**



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# Features Suggestive of Adenomatous Polyposis Syndromes

- Multiple colorectal adenomas
- Colorectal cancer associated with multiple adenomas
- Possible extracolonic manifestations
  - Non-colonic polyps and cancers (i.e. duodenal, gastric)
  - Desmoid tumors, osteomas, soft tissue tumors, dental abnormalities, CHRPE



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# Is the cancer in my family hereditary?

- Risk Assessment appointment
  - understand cancer risk specific to your history
  - learn about screening, prevention and risk reduction
  - discuss the possibility of genetic testing
  - discuss the potential impact of genetic testing



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# What happens during the risk assessment appointment?

1. Collect family history information before appointment
2. Schedule an appointment with a health care provider to discuss your family history and determine if you are appropriate for genetic testing
3. Consider the pros and cons of genetic testing



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# What does genetic testing involve?

1. Genetic testing is performed on a small blood sample
2. Results are available in about 4 weeks and are discussed in person with health care provider
3. Consider options for screening and prevention, based on positive or negative results
4. Contact your health care provider periodically for updates



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# Costs

## Risk Assessment Appointment

- Cost varies at each institution

## Genetic Testing

- Most insurance companies are covering genetic testing
- Medicare and most major insurance carriers have established guidelines



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# Genetic Discrimination in Health Insurance is Illegal

- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
  - Prohibits group health plans from discriminating on the basis of genetic information
- Most states have enacted additional protections



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# Where Can I Learn More?

- Nicole Melby, RN, BSN  
757-673-5967
- Hereditary Colon Cancer Association-  
[www.hereditarycc.org](http://www.hereditarycc.org)
- Colorectal Cancer Network  
[www.colorectal-cancer.net](http://www.colorectal-cancer.net) [cancer.net](http://cancer.net)
- Colon Cancer Alliance  
[www.ccalliance.org](http://www.ccalliance.org)
- Myriad Genetic Laboratories  
[www.myriadtests.com](http://www.myriadtests.com)



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# Colorectal Cancer Screening

T J Duntemann, MD, FACP



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# Overview

- Common, lethal and preventable
- Average lifetime risk ~ 5%
- Infrequent before age of 40
- 90% of cases occur after age 50
- 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of cancer death both sexes
- Approx. 52,000 deaths/yr in US



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# Why is Screening Effective?

- Most colon cancers develop gradually over many yrs.
- Most begin as small adenomatous polyps
- Polyps may grow then transform into malignancies and spread
- The usual progression takes at least 10 yrs
- Screening identifies polyp formers and those at risk



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# Screening vs. Surveillance

- Screening- Asymptomatic w/o risk factors
- Surveillance-
  - Previous polyps
  - Previous colon cancer
  - Significant family history
- Symptom evaluation
  - Blood , anemia, etc.



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# Determine the Risk

- Family history of CRC or polyps
  - 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree relative?
  - Age of onset?
  - Number?
- Personal history of CRC or polyps
- Personal history of Inflammatory Bowel Disease



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# Screening Tests

- FOBT
- Flexible Sigmoidoscopy
- Air Contrast Barium Enema
- Colonoscopy



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# Colonoscopy-Expectations & Risk

- Evaluation of colon and removal of polyps can prevent colon cancer
- Allows inspection and treatment in 1 visit
- Low miss rate ( no test is perfect)
- Requires bowel prep
- Sedation most commonly utilized
- Risk of perforation or major bleeding are ~1 / 1000 procedures



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# New Technologies

- Virtual colonoscopy
- Stool DNA testing
- Both would require colonoscopic intervention for positives



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# ***The Benefits of Minimally Invasive Surgery for Colon Cancer***

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Tidewater Surgical Specialists - Colorectal Surgery Division

Director – Bon Secours Center for Colon & Rectal Diseases



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# Laparoscopic Surgery

- Revolution: minimally invasive surgery
- First cholecystectomy 1987
- Smaller incisions, decreased pain, shorter length of hospital stay, early return to regular activities
- Application to variety of abdominal operations



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# Laparoscopic Colectomy

- 1<sup>st</sup> Laparoscopic colectomy: 1990
- Spectrum of resections described
- Benefits similar as with other procedures
- Acceptable morbidity
- 2003: < 10% of all colectomies



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# LAPAROSCOPIC COLECTOMY

## Clinical Outcomes of Surgical Therapy Study Group-COST

A Phase III Prospective Randomized  
Trial Sponsored by National Cancer  
Institute and NCI Cooperative  
Groups



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# **LAPAROSCOPIC COLECTOMY TRIAL**

## **Study Aims**

**To test differences in**

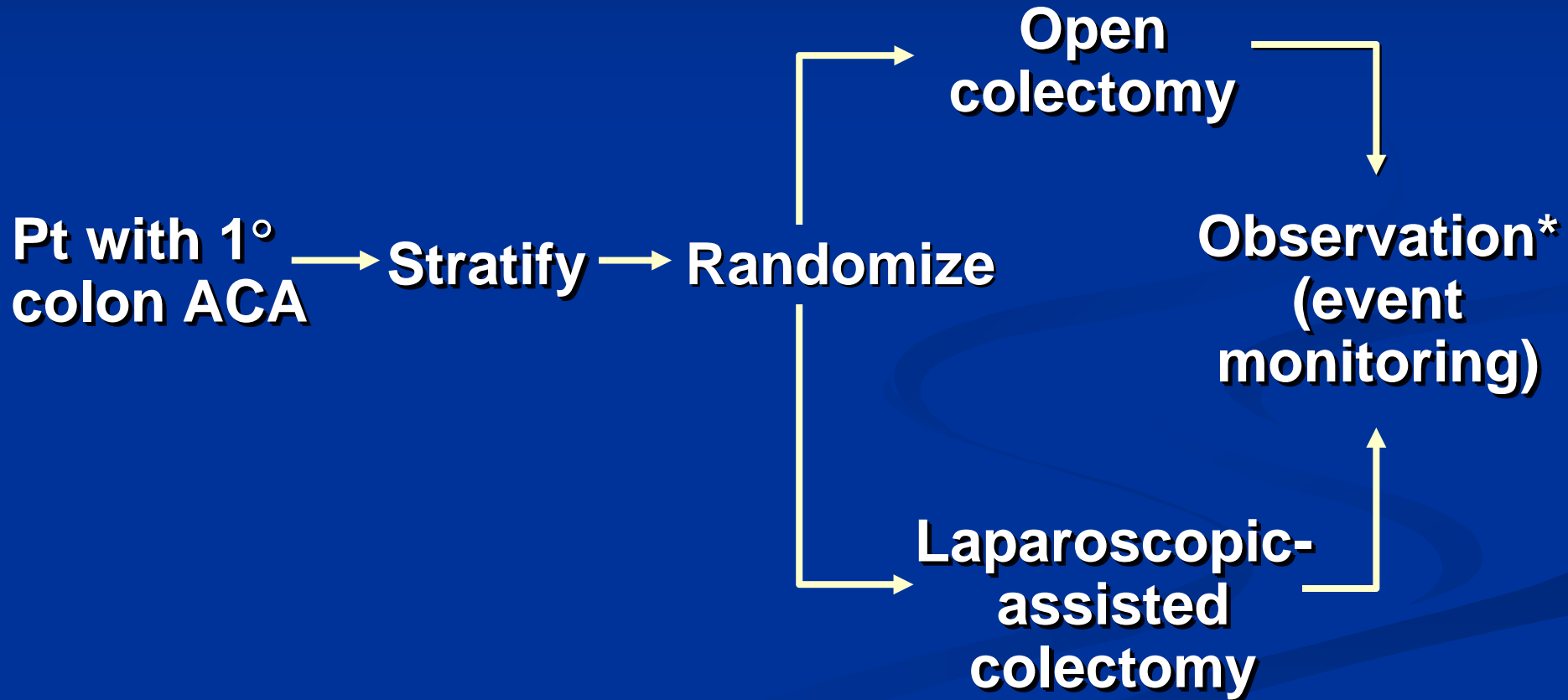
- **Cancer outcomes**  
**(Overall and Disease-Free Survival)**
- **Safety (morbidity; mortality)**
- **Patient-related benefits**  
**(quality of life; cost effectiveness)**



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# LAPAROSCOPIC COLECTOMY TRIAL Schema



**872 Patients  
randomized**

**437 Assigned to open  
colectomy**

**5 Received LAC**

**432 Received intervention  
as allocated**

**4 Excluded from analysis**

**3 Metastatic disease  
identified preoperatively**

**1 No local IRB approval**

**428 Included in analysis**

**435 Assigned to LAC**

**2 Refused any surgery**

**433 Received intervention  
as allocated**

**5 Received intervention  
due to crossover**

**3 Excluded from analysis**

**2 Metastatic disease  
identified preoperatively**

**1 Previous prostate cancer**

**435 Included in analysis**

# LAPAROSCOPIC COLECTOMY

## COSTST Trial - Recovery Benefits\*

	Open* n=428	LAC n=435
Length of stay	6 (5-7)	5 (4-6)
Narcotics	4 (3-5)	3 (2-4)
Oral analgesic	2 (1-3)	1 (1-2)

\*in days; median values;(interquartile range)



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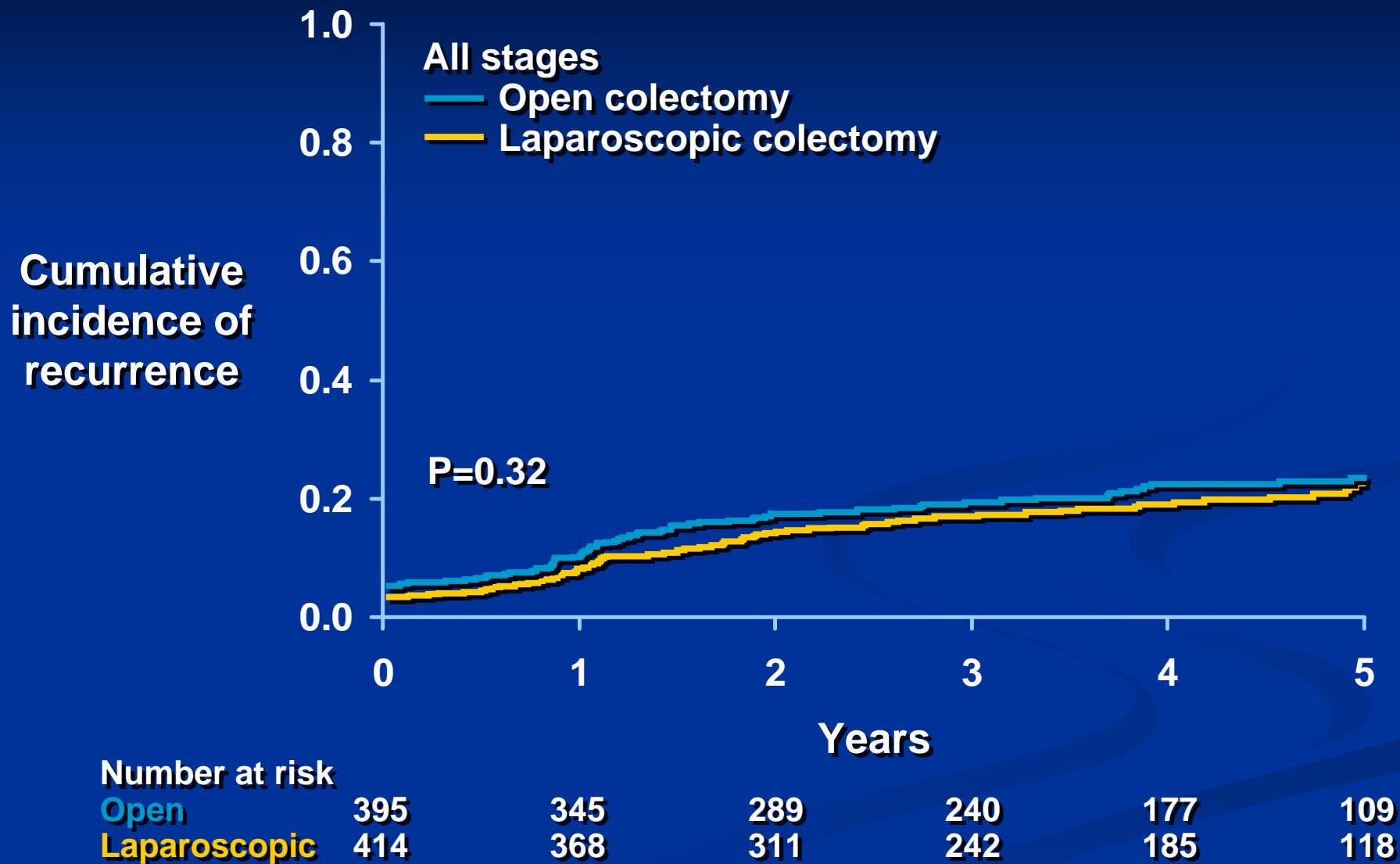
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# LAPAROSCOPIC COLECTOMY

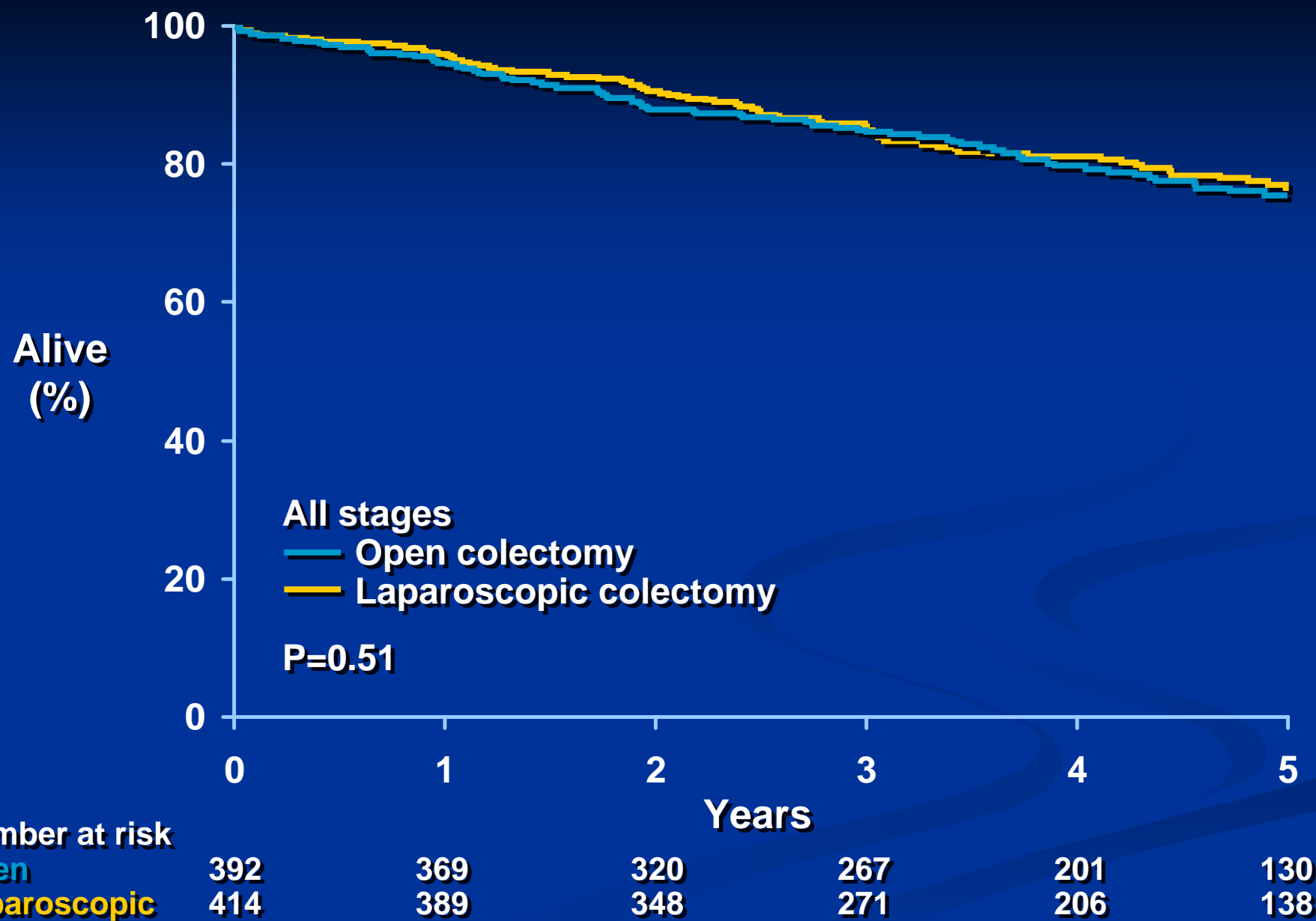
## COSTSG Trial - Morbidity/Mortality

	Open*	LAC *
	n=428	n=435
30-day mortality		
no.(%)	4 (0.9)	2 (0.5)
Complications		
Overall	85 (20)	92 (21)
Intraoperative	8 (2)	16 (4)
Postoperative	80 (19)	81 (19)

\* p=ns for all comparisons







# LAPAROSCOPIC COLECTOMY

## Summary

### Cancer Outcomes

- No differences in
  - Overall Survival
  - Disease-free survival
  - Wound recurrences



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# LAPAROSCOPIC COLECTOMY

## Summary

### ■ Safety

- Equivalent morbidity
- Equivalent mortality

### ■ Patient Related Benefits

- Faster recovery
- Significant differences



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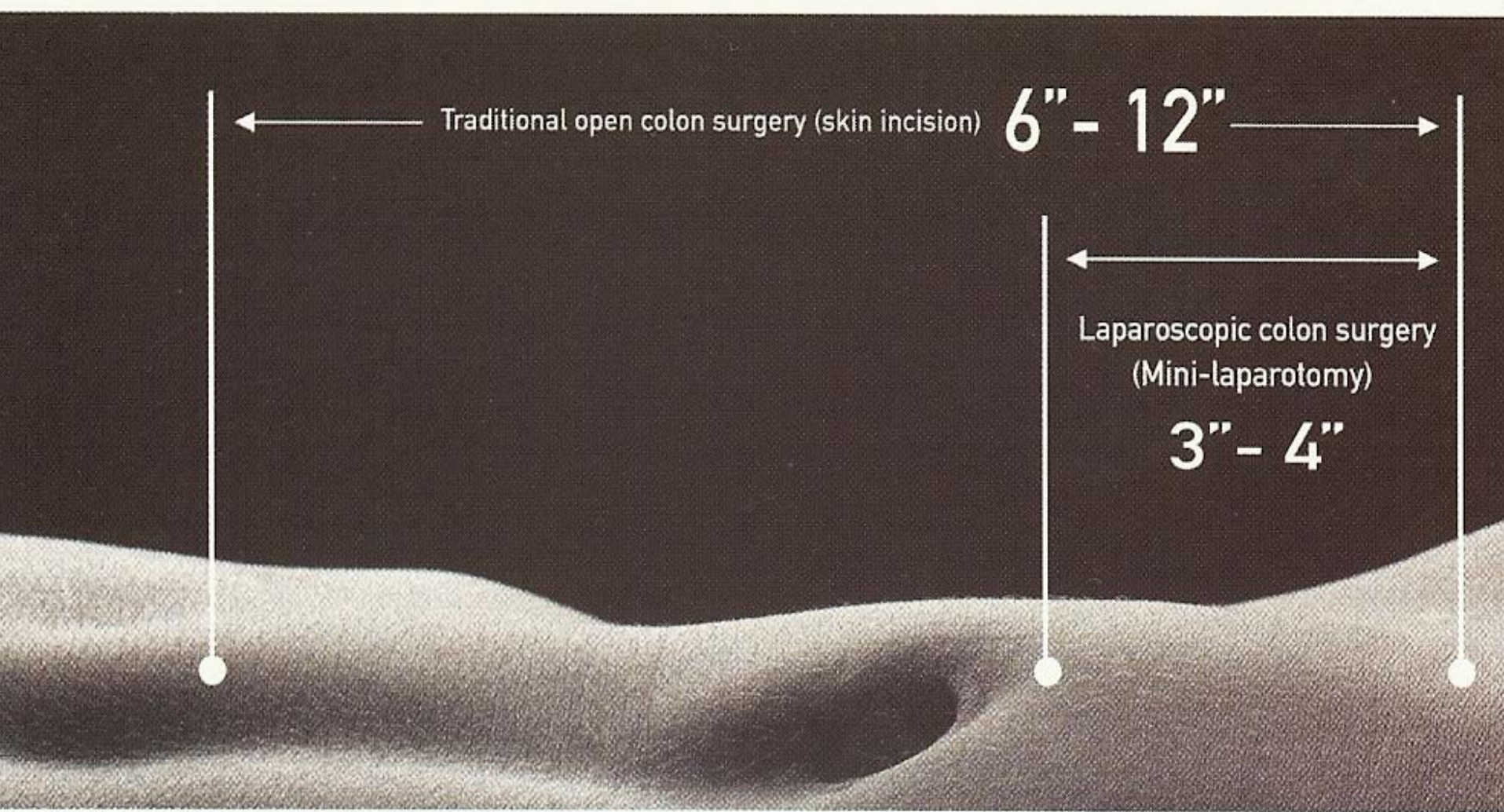
# Patients Now Have a Choice !



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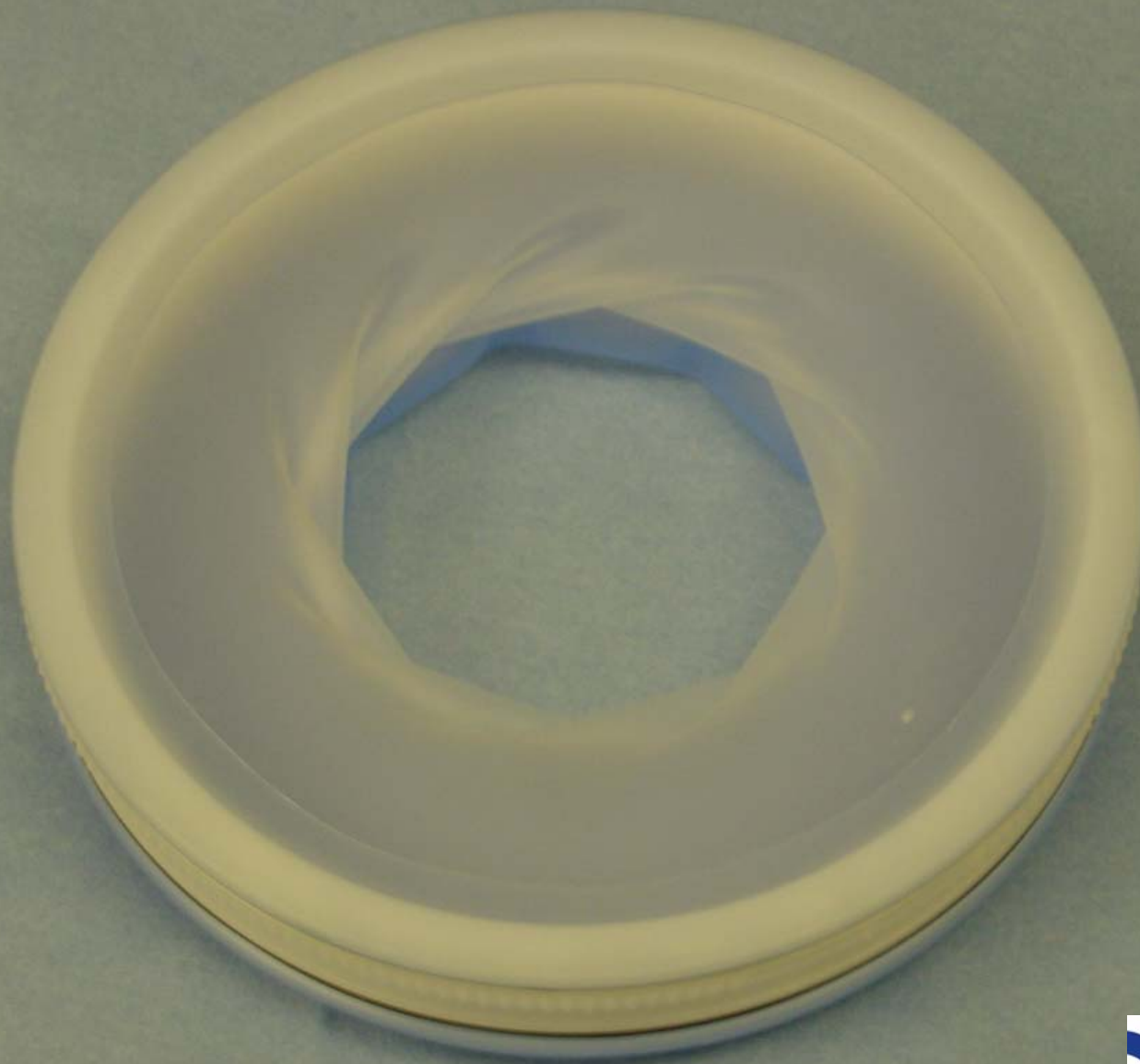
THE SHORTEST DISTANCE  
BETWEEN A PATIENT AND RECOVERY

# Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery

## - Benefits -

- Smaller incision and scar
- Reduced operative trauma and stress
- Reduced post-op pain and narcotic use
- Early feeding
- Early return of bowel function
- Shorter hospital stay
- Diminished blood loss and morbidity
- Earlier return to work and activities of daily living
- Decreased physiologic and immunologic compromise





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# Laparoscopic Colon Resection

- Summary
  - Less pain
  - Shorter hospital stay
  - Faster recovery
  - Why have colon surgery any other way???



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# Bon Secours Center for Colon and Rectal Diseases

- Harbour View Campus
- Nicole Melby
  - On-site Clinical Coordinator
  - 673-5970



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# Questions?

Thank You



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# Updates in Medical Oncology of Colon Cancer: Adjuvant Chemotherapy

James J. Stark, MD, FACP  
Medical Director, Cancer Program  
Maryview Medical Center

Professor of Medicine,  
Eastern Virginia Medical School



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# Adjuvant Chemotherapy

- Given soon after surgery for cancer to try to eradicate tiny amounts of cancer that may have escaped the primary tumor before surgery
- Abundant animal experimental and human evidence of a substantial reduction in mortality using this approach



# Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Colorectal Cancer

- Relatively late development
  - Only about 15 years of successful data, probably because of previously relatively weak drugs
  - Newer drugs have improved outcome at the cost of additional toxicity and a financial burden on the health care system
    - “FOLFOX” regimens most active, use Oxaliplatin, an expensive and toxic drug



# Additional Factors Affecting Outcome

- Colorectal screening programs identify patients with earlier-stage disease
- Better surgical techniques
- Better pathological staging
  - The Will Rogers Phenomenon....





- "When the Okies left Oklahoma and moved to California, they raised the average intelligence levels in both states."
  - -- Will Rogers, commenting on geographic migration during the economic depression of the 1930s.



# Additional Factors Affecting Outcome

- Better surgical techniques
- Better pathological staging
  - The Will Rogers Phenomenon....
- As pathologists get better at finding lymph nodes, patients who would have been scored as “node negative” now have positive nodes and the prognosis of both groups improves
- Implications for data analysis....



# Adjuvant Chemotherapy: Bottom Line

- As more patients get diagnosed early, have better surgery and have a better outcome, we need a better way to select which patients should *not* be treated with adjuvant chemotherapy: who doesn't need treatment, and who won't benefit from it



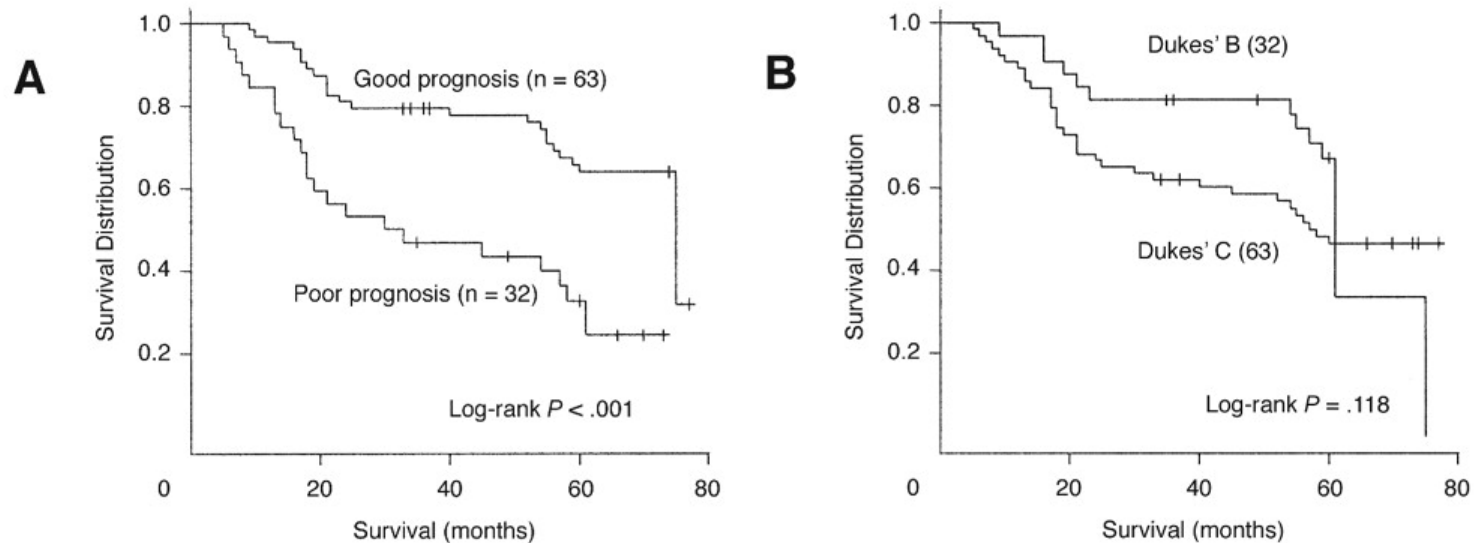
# Better Selection of Patients: Molecular Markers of Prognosis

- New technology can identify thousands of genes in a tiny specimen of tumor: c-DNA microarray technology
- Tumors can be analyzed retrospectively to see which gene mutations can predict for a good or bad outcome
- This approach has recently been taken in colorectal cancer...



# The Eschrich Study:

Identified 43 genes out of 32,000 studied:



Eschrich et al, JCO 23:3526, 2005

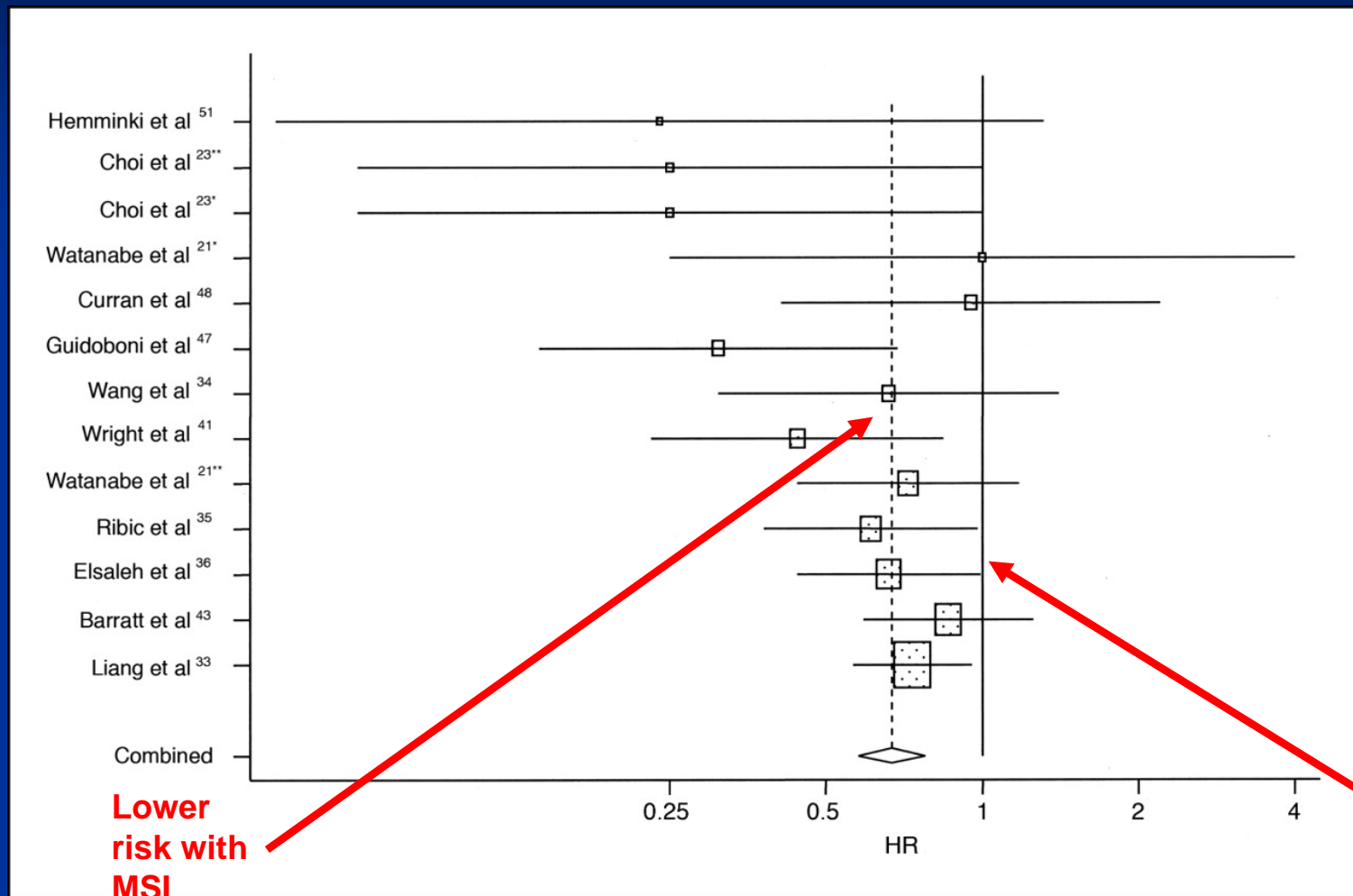


# Another Variable: Microsatellite Instability

- Looks at ability of tumor genes to repair themselves
- 15% of colon cancers have “MSI” which means they cannot repair defective genes
- Leads to a relative inability of the tumor to survive additional mutations
- May be a marker for a better outcome...



# Hazard ratios (HRs) of overall survival in studies of all stage II-III colorectal cancer associated with microsatellite instability



Lower  
risk with  
MSI

Average  
risk

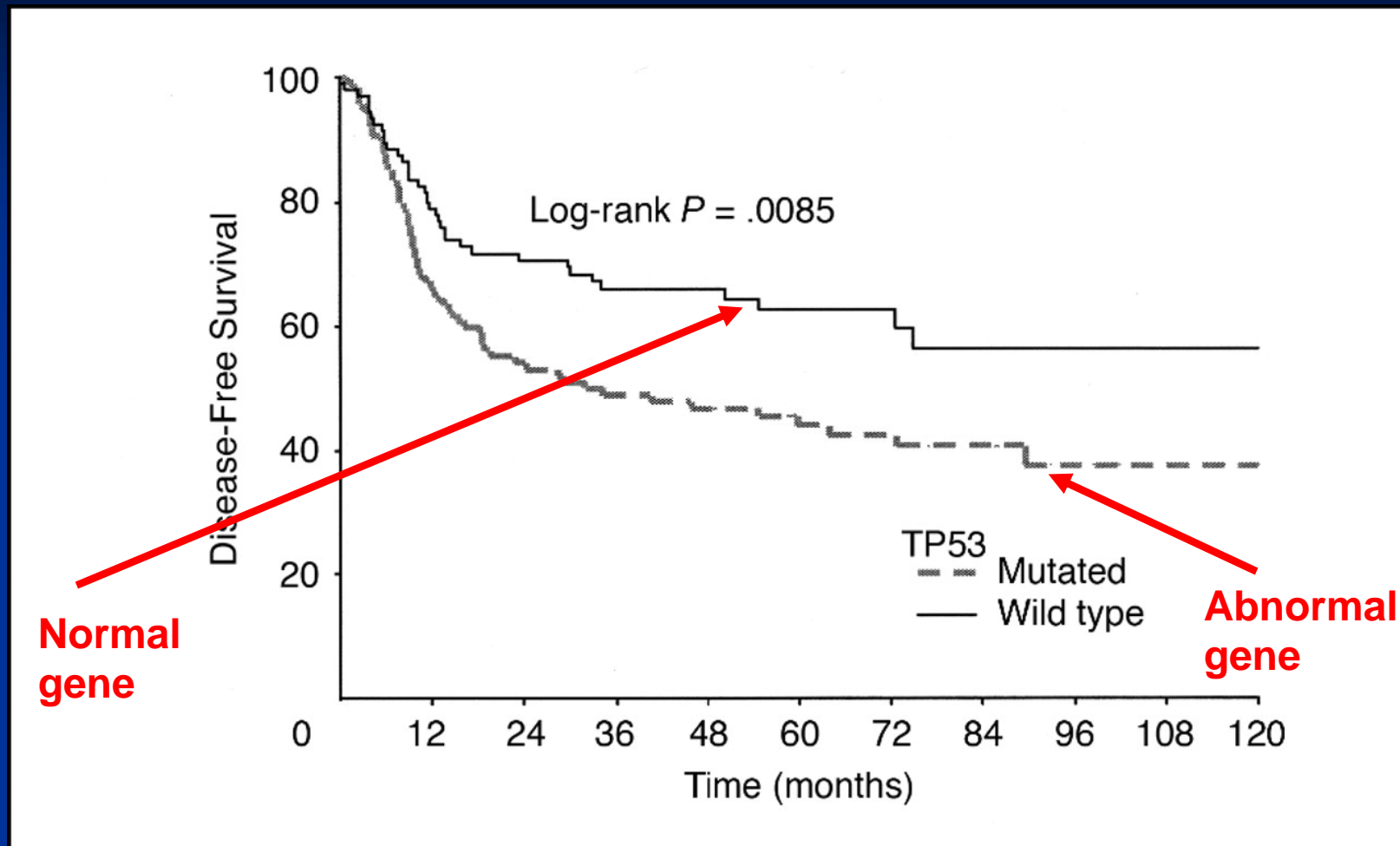
# Final Variable: P-53 status

- P-53 is a tumor suppressor gene: helps us *not* to get cancer
- When altered (mutated) cancers may develop more easily and may be more aggressive
- Colon cancer specimens examined retrospectively for this gene...





## Disease-free survival of 220 patients according to TP53 status (mutated v wild type)



Westra, J. L. et al. J Clin Oncol; 23:5635-5643 2005

# Conclusions

- With better surgery and better staging colon cancer survival is better even without chemotherapy
- With newer drugs regimens are more effective but more toxic and much more expensive
- Decision on who to treat becomes very important
- Newer markers may predict outcome more precisely allowing better estimate of risk/reward ratio with chemo
- Patients with poorest predicted outcome will then get the most effective therapy



# Any Questions?



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