

# The malignant colorectal polyp

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Envoi Pathology

Envoi data reproduced from J Clin  
Path 2015 article

# Definition

- Adenocarcinoma found in an endoscopically resected polypoidal tumour
  - Submucosal invasive tumour in a pre existing adenoma (conventional or serrated)
  - Polypoidal carcinoma
  - ('intramucosal' adenocarcinoma)

# Importance

- Detection is increasing – **NBCSP**
- A **quality marker** for pathology practice standards
- Surgery versus conservative
  - Patient risk and economic benefit

# What do we know?

## 1) RISK

### – Resection specimens

- **LN metastasis in 7-9%** (Envoi - 8.0%) \* most important
- Residual adenocarcinoma at polypectomy site  $\leq 5\%$
- Residual adenoma at polypectomy site  $\leq 5-10\%$
- **Overall rate of residual disease = 10-15%**

### – All specimens

- 50-60% of endoscopic MCP are followed by resection
- Overall risk of **LN mets all MCP = 4%**
- Overall risk of **residual disease all MCP = 7-10%** (Envoi =8.7%)

# What do we know?

## 2) CLINICAL

- Males (55-60%)
- Mean age 60-65 years
- 3/4 are in rectum or sigmoid
- Sessile: pedunculated
  - 6:4 (Envoi) to 4:1 (Ueno) when assessed by pathologist
  - 1:2 when assessed by endoscopist
- MCP may be small
  - 25%  $\leq$  10mm
  - 1.7%  $\leq$  5mm

# What do we know?

## 3) RISK FACTORS

- predict: LN mets, residual disease in wall, overall tumour specific survival
- 2 groups:

### 1) Qualitative

- Differentiation, vascular invasion, margin status etc

### 2) Quantitative

- Tumour size - Depth of invasion, tumour width, Haggitt, Kikuchi etc

- Tumour size is the most important risk factor

# What are we trying to do?

## Cost benefit analysis for surgery

### – Costs

- Risk of surgery – morbidity and mortality
- Economic cost of unnecessary surgery
- ('sunk' cost = tumour may already have metastasized beyond bowel wall or patient might die of another condition before the benefit of surgery accrues)

### – Benefits

- Remove residual disease that might later directly cause morbidity or mortality

# What are the issues?

## 1) Risk of residual disease for MCP is overstated

Risk criteria	Degree of Risk	Total score	% risk of residual cancer
Resection margin < 1mm	4	0 1 2 3 ≥4	<3% <5% 5-10% 8-15% >20%
Resection margin 1-2mm	1		
Pedunculated Haggitt level 4	4		
Sessile: Kikuchi 2	2		
Sessile: Kikuchi 3	4		
Poor differentiation	3		
Mucinous tumour	1		
Tumour budding	1		
Lymphovascular invasion	2		

Williams JG, Pullan RD, Hill J et al. (2013). Management of the malignant colorectal polyp: ACPGBI position statement. Colorectal Dis Suppl. 2:1-38.



# What are the issues?

## 1) Risk of residual disease for MCP is overstated

Number of risk factors	Nodal involvement	
	Ueno	Envoi
0	0.7%	2%
1	20.7%	8.2%
≥2	36.4%	12.2%

Risk factors = poor differentiation, lymphovascular invasion and tumour budding

Ueno et al Gastroenterology 2004;127:385-94 \* half the MCP in this study were treated by primary surgical resection

# What are the issues?

## 1) Risk of residual disease for MCP is overstated

T stage	N+ stage proportion (%)		All untreated CRC Envoi
	Rectal cancer	Colon cancer	
T1	10.2%	4.3%	6.3%
T2	22.3%	19.0%	15.0%
T3-4	51.2%	38.5%	46.2%

World J Gastroenterol. 2010 Nov 14; 16(42): 5375–5379

# What are the issues?

## 2) Risk of surgical resection is overstated

- Quoted figures (overall)
  - mortality 2-5 %
  - morbidity 30 %
  - Anastomotic leak 1-4%
- Local colorectal surgeons are much better than this

# What are the issues?

## 3) Risk for primary colonoscopic resection

Polyp size (cm)	Polyp location and morphology			
	Left colon		Right colon	
	Pedunculated (n = 987)	Sessile (n = 1577)	Pedunculated (n = 118)	Sessile (n = 1294)
< 1 cm	0 (250)	0.4 (950)	1.9 (54)	1.2 (729)
1.0–1.9 cm	0.6 (512)	0.9 (438)	3.9 (51)	3.5 (402)
≥ 2 cm	3.6 (225)	5.3 (189)	0 (13)	11.7 (163)

Munich polypectomy study (Endoscopy 2005;37:1116-1122) – Major complication rate = death, perforation, bleeding

BSG audit – perforation - 0.04%, bleeding - 0.26%, readmission – 0.14%

# What are the issues?

4) The 5 year survival for stage III colorectal carcinoma is quite good and is getting better!

Stage	5-year Relative Survival Rate Colon vs Rectum
I	92% vs 87%
IIA	87% vs 80%
IIB	63% vs 49%
IIIA	89% vs 84%
IIIB	69% vs 78%
IIIC	53% vs 51%
IV	11% vs 12%

SEER data 2004 - 2010

# Further treatment decision

## 1) Patient factors

- Age
- Co-morbidities
- Genetic syndrome (eg Lynch, FAP)
- Cancer phobia

# Further treatment decision

## 2) Pathological factors

### 1) Qualitative

- Differentiation, vascular invasion, margin status etc

### 2) Quantitative

- Size of invasive tumour

# Further treatment decision

## 3) Gastroenterologist/surgeon\*

- Feeling on adequacy of endoscopic resection
- Personality
- Experience – EMR/ESD (gastroenterologist) vs laparoscopic resection (colorectal surgeon)
- Knowledge!!!

**Recommendations for surgical resection:** (from Nivatvongs S. Surg Clin N Am 2002;82:959–966)

### A. Lesions in colon

- Pedunculated Haggitt level 4 with invasion into distal third of submucosa, or pedunculated lesions with lymphovascular invasion
- Sessile lesions removed with margin <2 mm
- Sessile lesions removed piecemeal
- Sessile lesions with depth of invasion into distal third of submucosa (Sm3)
- Sessile lesions with lymphovascular invasion

### B. Lesions in middle third and upper third rectum

Same as lesions in colon

### C. Lesions in distal third rectum

- Pedunculated Haggitt level 4 with invasion into distal third of submucosa, or pedunculated lesions with lymphovascular invasion
- All sessile lesions



# Bottom line

- Better pathological risk assessment
- Better endoscopic resection
- Better surgical outcomes
- Better oncological therapy if a LN met is missed
- ?? imaging techniques to detect LN met
- NBCSP = smaller malignant polyps

The risk benefit data is changing

All we can control is the pathology input

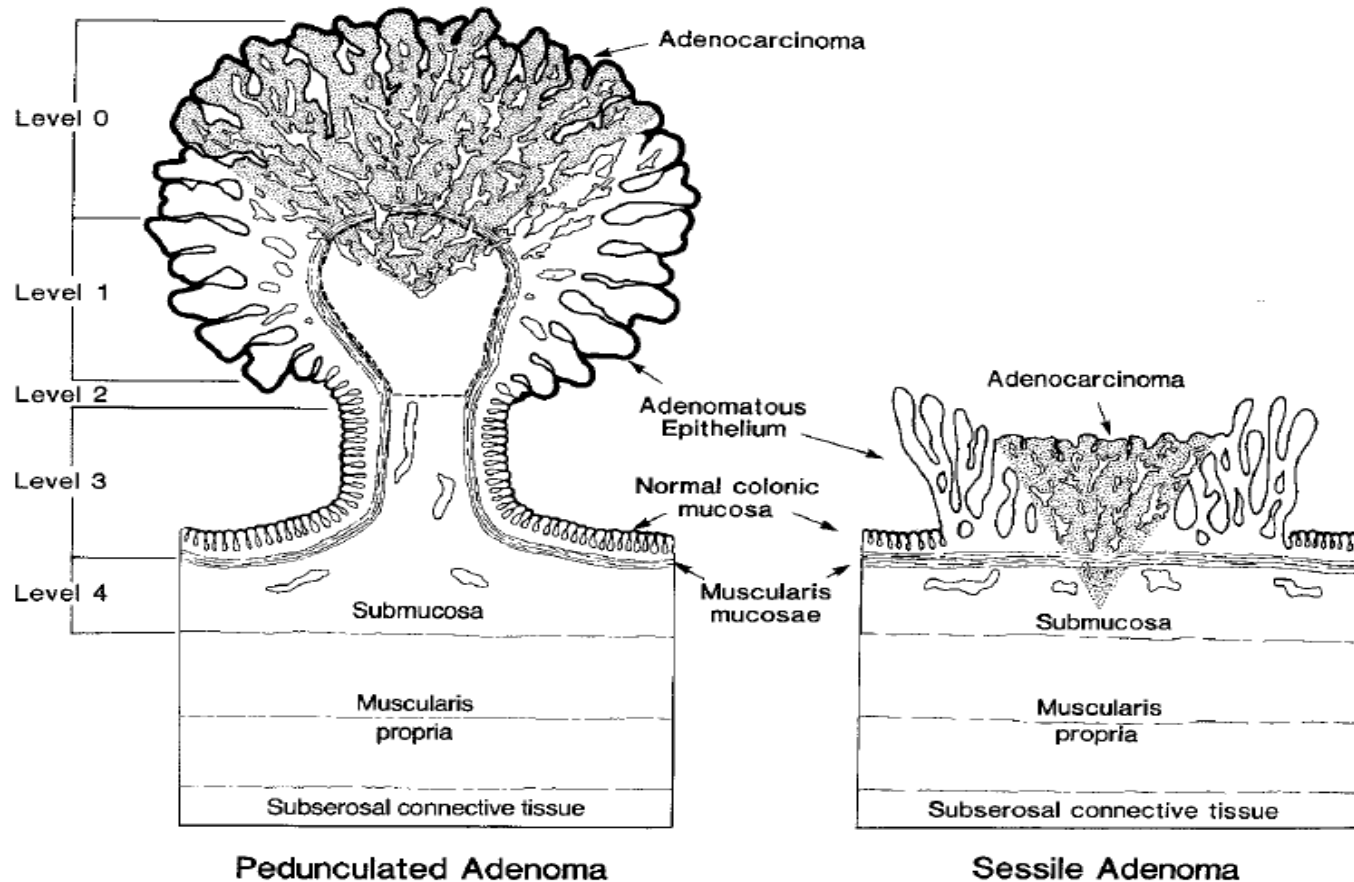
Pathological factors

# Quantitative factors

(Tumour size/depth of invasion)

# 1) Haggitt levels

- Depth of invasion



# 1) Haggitt levels

- **Haggitt paper** Gastroenterology 1985;89:328-36
  - 129 cases (50% were level 0)
  - 70 (54%) pedunculated; 42 sessile, indeterminate 17
  - 51% underwent resection; 35% of all cases were primary resections
  - Lymphatic invasion - 2 cases
  - Venous invasion – 0 cases
  - 8 (6.2%) adverse outcome = LN mets in 4 (but not known in 3 cases who died); death from disease in 5

# 1) Haggitt levels

- 8/64 (12.5%) submucosal invasive carcinoma (levels 1-4) had an adverse outcome (LN mets/tumour related death). These were:
  - Levels 0-2 = 0 cases (0%)
  - Level 3 = 1 case (12.5%)
  - Level 4 = 7 cases (87.5%)\*\* (2 were pedunculated, 6 were sessile)
- **Level 4 is the significant factor**
- 7/28 polyps were level 4 = PPV for adverse behaviour = 25%
- ?How many level 4 were pedunculated

# 1) Haggitt levels

- Problems:

- 1) 59 non pedunculated polyps were by definition level 4

- (6 had adverse outcome = 10%)

- 2) 70 pedunculated polyps

- ? how many level 4 invasion (2 adverse)

- Data from paper suggests PPV of risk for pedunculated Level 4 > sessile level 4 (but data is incomplete)

# 1) Haggitt levels

## 3) Difficult to apply in practice

- poor orientation
- Piecemeal specimen
- Pedunculated vs sessile
- Levels 1 vs 2 and 2 vs 3

## 4) Over interpretation by surgeons

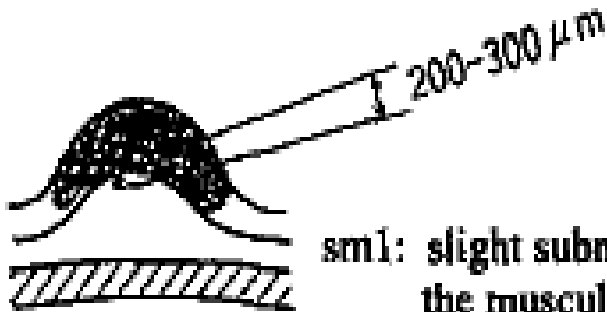
## 5) Small series, not contemporary



- Envoi data
  - Less pedunculated polyps than reported in clinical series (43% vs 66%)
  - Pedunculated Haggitt level 4 = nil
  - Haggitt level 3 = 14%
    - 2 (12.5%) had LN mets (one was pT3 at resection)
    - 1 other case had residual adenocarcinoma in lymphatics
  - Haggitt level 2 = 19%
    - 1 (5.9%) had LN mets; large mucinous LVI
  - Haggitt level 1 = 10%
    - no LN mets

## 2) Kikuchi/Kudo levels

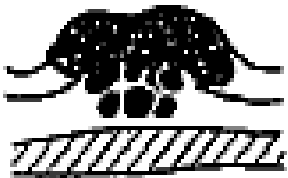
### Sessile polyps



sm1: slight submucosal invasion from the muscularis mucosa.



sm2: intermediate between sm1 and sm3.



sm3: carcinoma invasion near the inner surface of the muscularis propria.

Kikuchi R et al Dis Colon Rectum 1995;38:1286-1295

Kudo S. Endoscopy 1993;25:455-61.

### LN metastasis risk

Nascimbeni R et al Dis Colon Rectum 2002;45:200-206.

3% (0% in contemporary studies)

8%

23%

Overall pT1 – 6-12%

## 2) Kikuchi/Kudo levels

- Problems:

1. Fragmented specimen

- Invasion  $<0.3\text{mm}$  = Kikuchi sm1
- Mid submucosal venous plexus is good surrogate for sm2

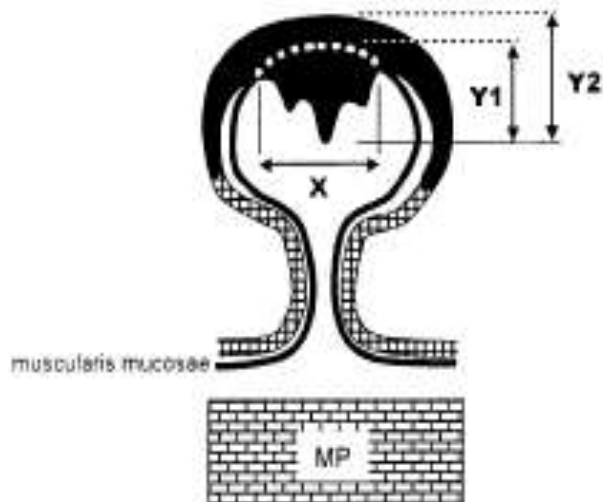
2. Muscularis mucosae destroyed by tumour and/or extensive tumour ulceration

3. Full thickness of submucosa is not included in standard endoscopic resection specimens (need ESD)

4. Not applicable to pedunculated polyps

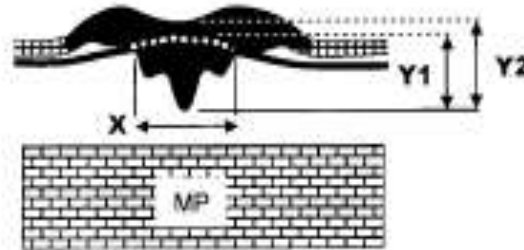
# 3) Tumour size - measured

- Width and Depth (surrogate of tumour volume) of invasive carcinoma
- **The most important prognostic feature – now confirmed in multiple studies**



**Pedunculated**

Y1 or Y2 depends on intactness of MM



**Sessile**

## LN metastasis risk

Width <2mm = 0%  
Depth <0.5mm = 0%

Width <4mm = 2.5%  
Depth <2mm = 3.9%

Width ≥ 4mm = 18.2%  
Depth ≥ 2mm = 17.1%

**Width ≥ 4mm and/or Depth ≥ 2mm predict LN metastasis**

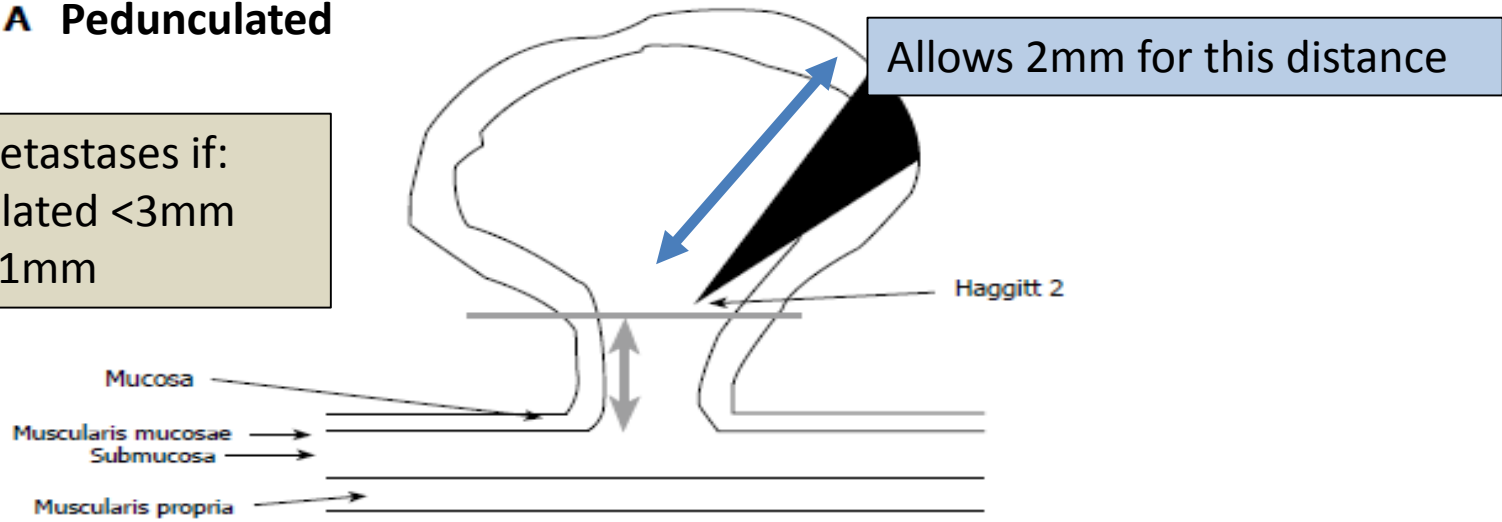
# 3) Katajima depth modification for pedunculated polyps

- Useful when sessile polyp is ulcerated or muscularis mucosae is destroyed
- Correlates tumour size in pedunculated polyps to sessile polyps

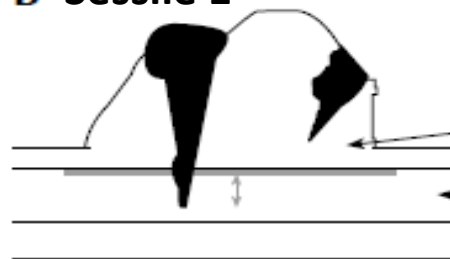
## A Pedunculated

No lymph metastases if:

- 1) Pedunculated <3mm
- 2) Sessile <1mm



## B Sessile 1

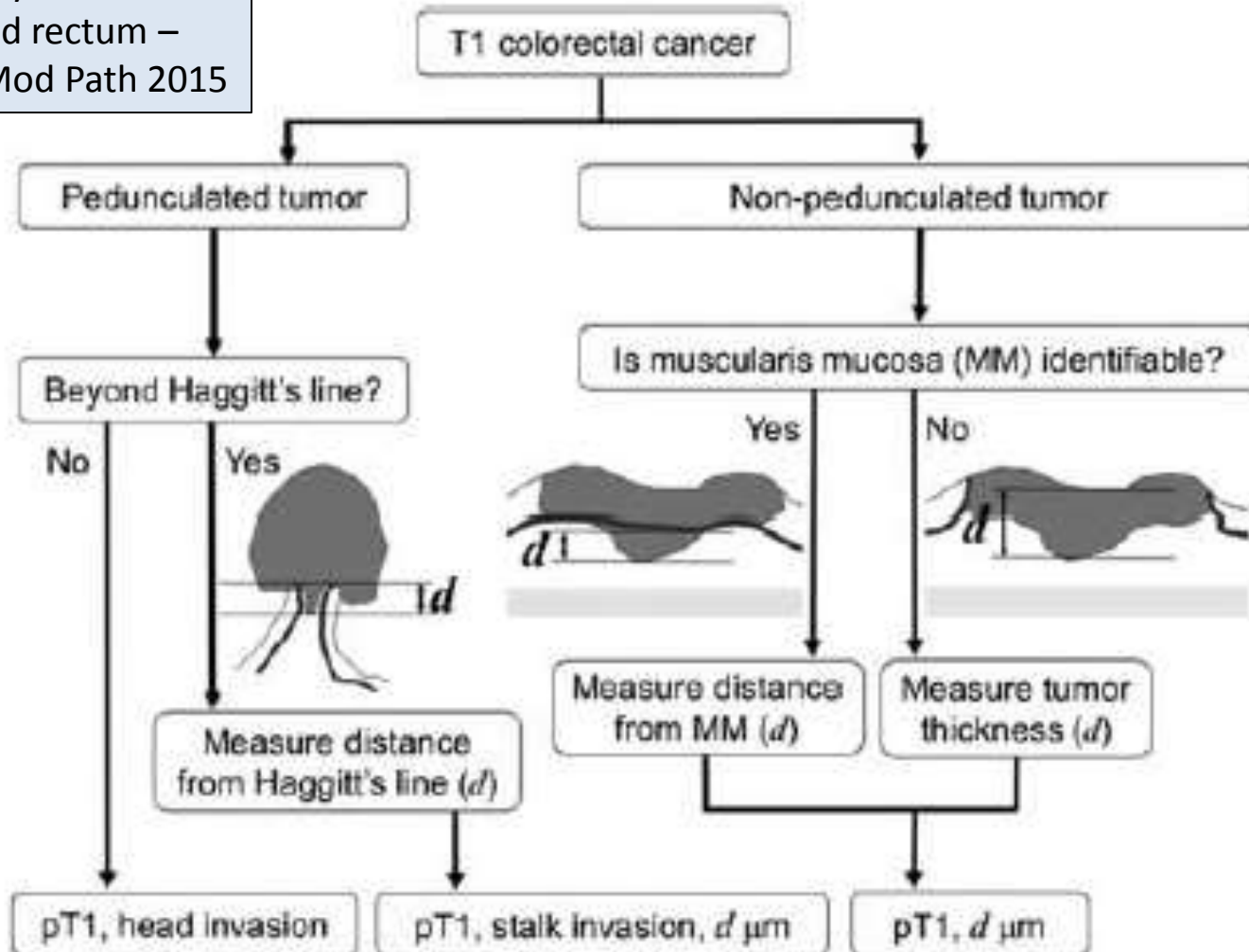


## C Sessile 2



# 4) Current Japanese criteria\*

Japanese society for cancer of the colon and rectum – Kawachi et al Mod Path 2015



# Tumour size - measured

Problems:

- 1) Poor orientation (levels might help)
  
- 2) Fragmented specimen
  - Often one or two pieces contain the majority of the carcinoma
  - Can give a minimum size which often exceeds 2mm depth or 4mm width
  
- 3) Muscularis mucosae destroyed
  - Measure full thickness of adenocarcinoma
  
- 4) Sessile vs pedunculated
  - if no definite stalk – measure as per sessile polyp

# Tumour size - measured

- Envoi data

Size	LN mets	No LN mets	Odds ratio	P value
Width of invasion >4mm	91.7%	51.5%	10.34 (1.31-81.43)	0.007
Depth of invasion >2mm	83.3%	48.0%	5.41 (1.16-25.26)	0.02

Size <1mm depth or <2mm width = 0% LN mets



Qualitative factors

# 1) Poor tumour differentiation

	Envoi (N=239)	Pooled analysis (Hassan et al N=1400)	Ueno et al (N = 292)	Butte (N=143)	Kawachi Mod path 2015 (N=805)
Poor differentiation	18.4% (all CRC = 20%)	7.2%	26.7%	11.9%	32.2%

- Wide variation in frequency

- Poor interobserver agreement

Kappa - 64-70% Cooper et al Gastroenterology. 1995;108:1657-65; 0.14 Terris et al Mod Path 2012;25(2)182A

- Studies are moving toward the concept of tumour grade rather than differentiation

- Requires MMR status

# 1) Poor tumour differentiation

	Residual disease	Metastasis	Mortality
% (average)	18%	23%	15%
Odds ratio - Hassan	2	4	9**
%/Odds ratio - Ueno		29%/3 (multivariate)	

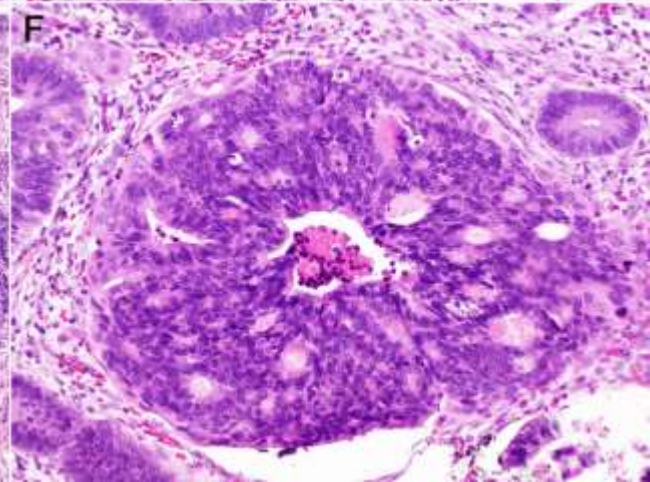
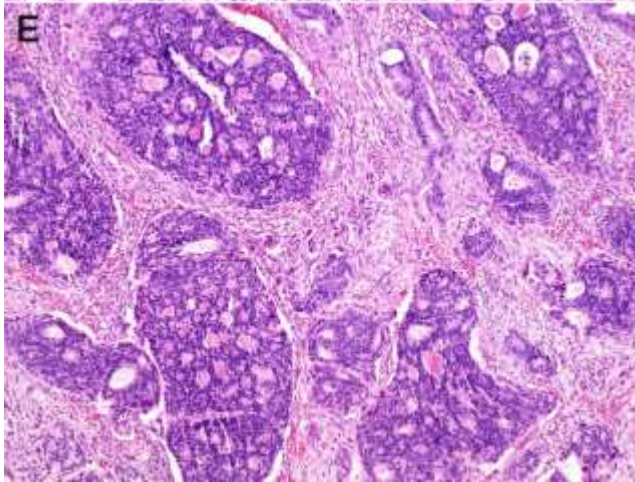
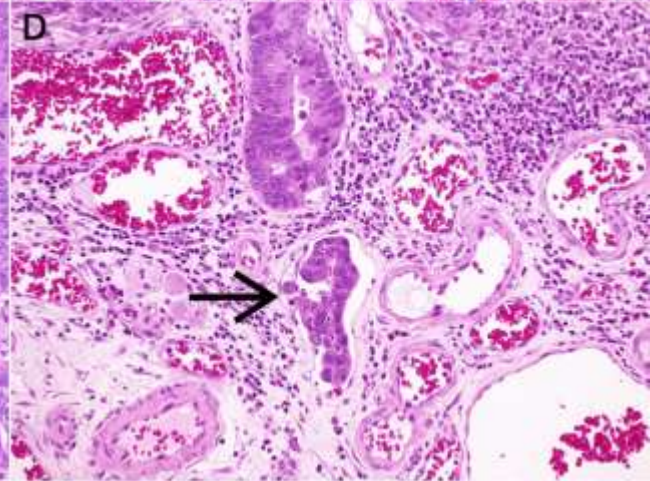
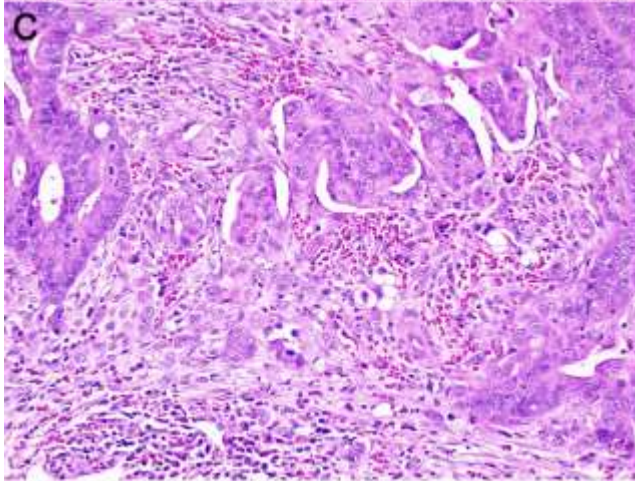
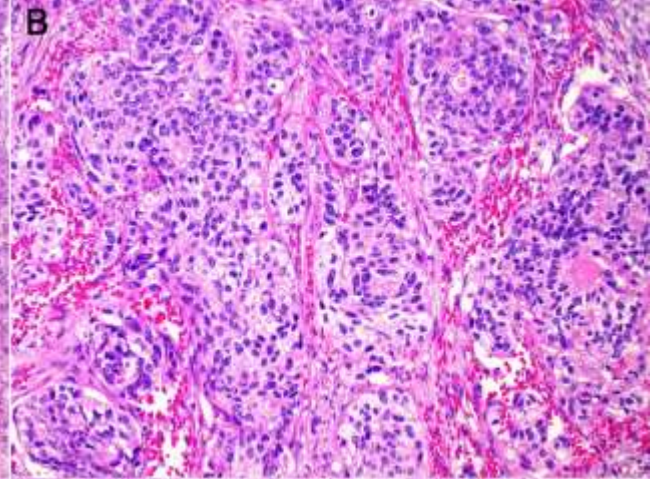
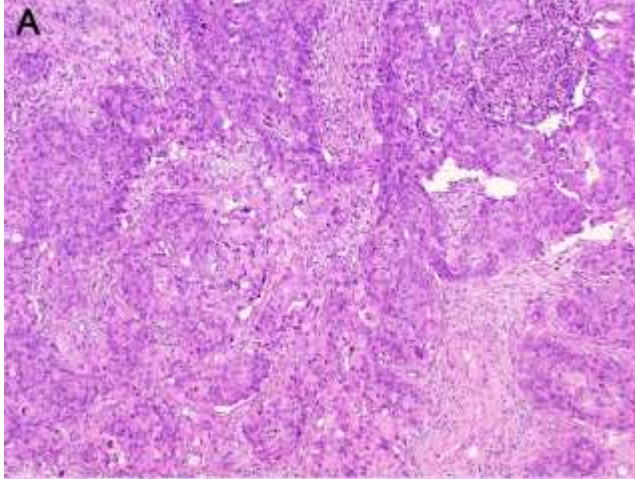
Hassan et al Dis Colon Rectum 2005;48:1588-96  
Ueno et al Gastroenterology 2004;127:385-94

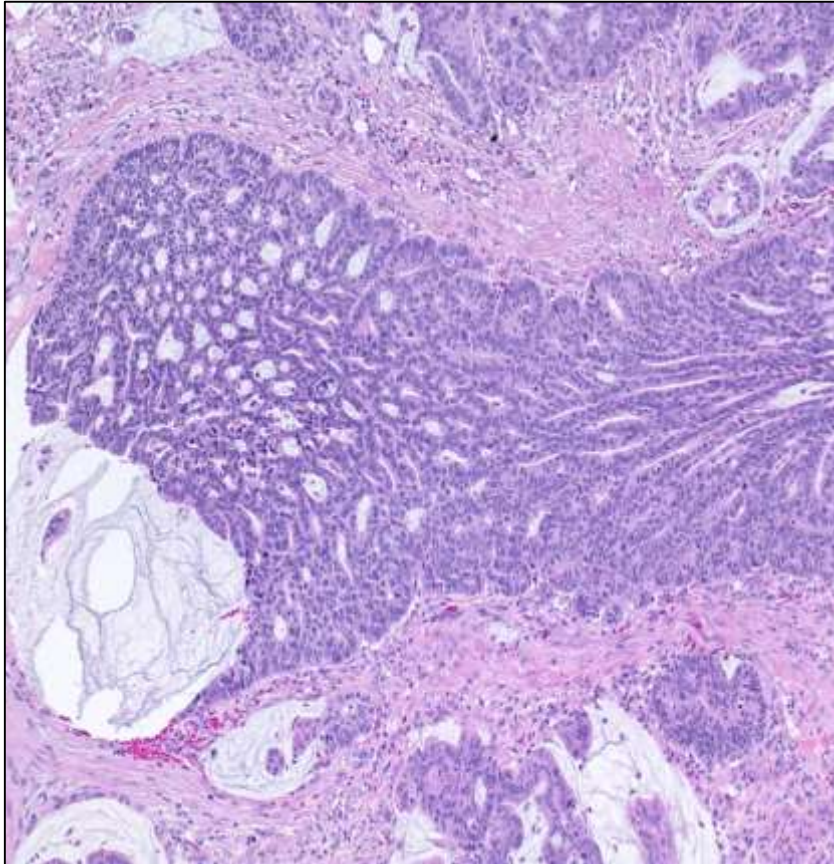
**Consistently associated with adverse outcome in all studies**

Probably because we all agree on the significant high grade lesions

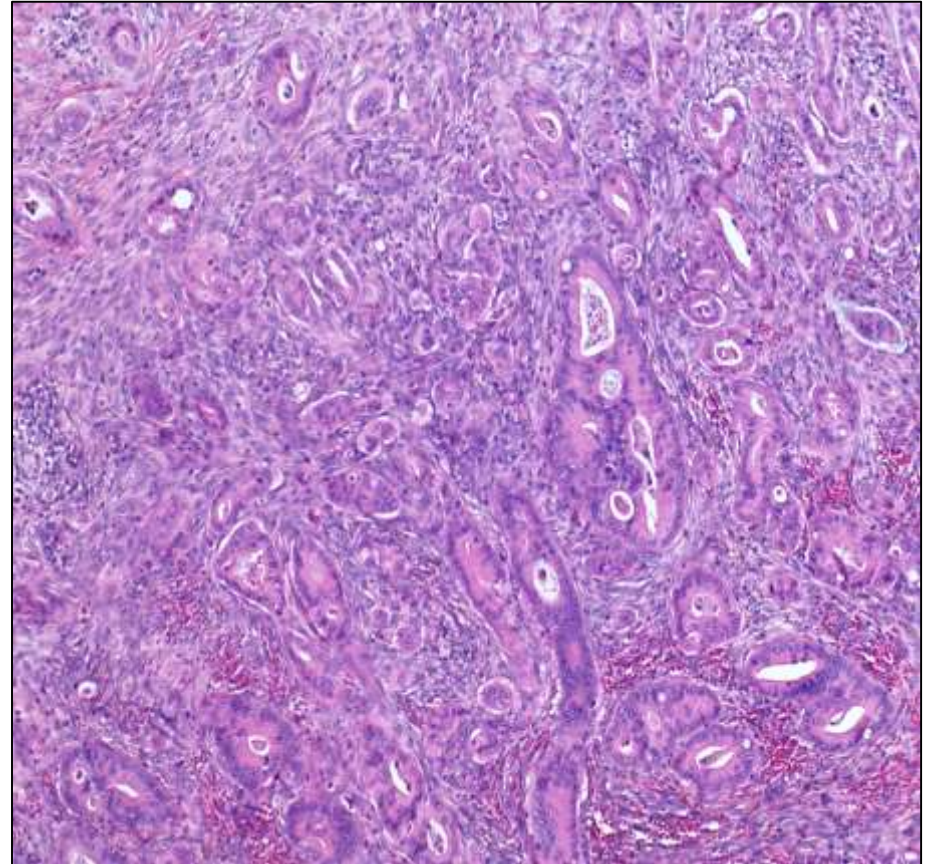
# 1) Poor tumour differentiation

- Poor differentiation in **any** part of tumour but particularly at invasive edge
- some studies require 50% of adenocarcinoma to be poorly differentiated
- **Patterns:**
  - <50% gland lumina
  - Mucinous (MLH-1 def)
  - Signet ring
  - Tumour 'buds' with >5 cells (poorly differentiated clusters)
  - Cribriform comedo
  - Undifferentiated carcinoma (?neuroendocrine)
  - **NOT** true tumour budding (<5 cells)

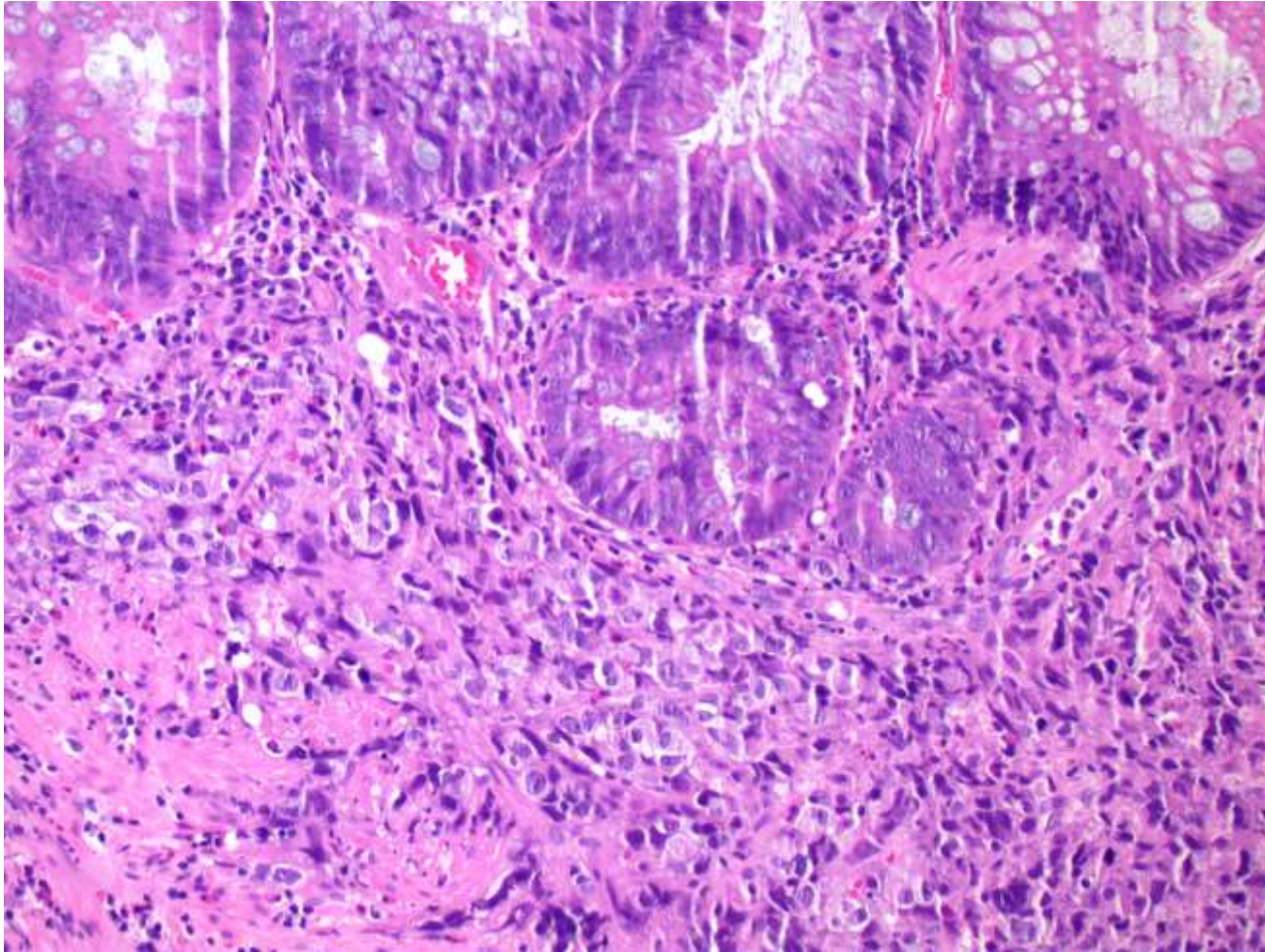




Cribriform and mucinous




Large buds – focal 'dedifferentiation'  
'poorly differentiated clusters'



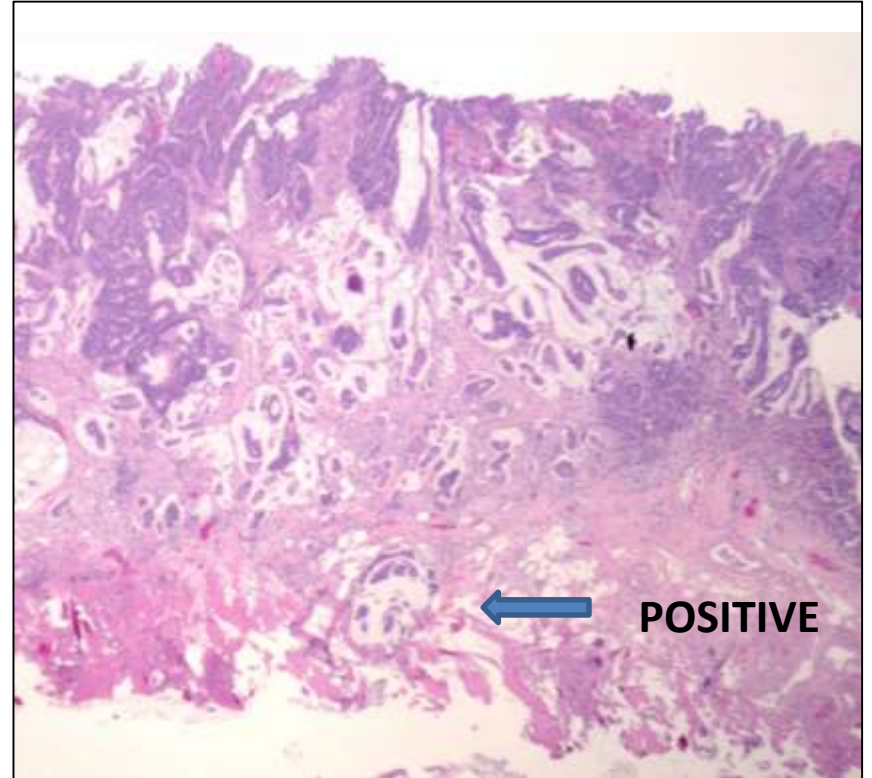
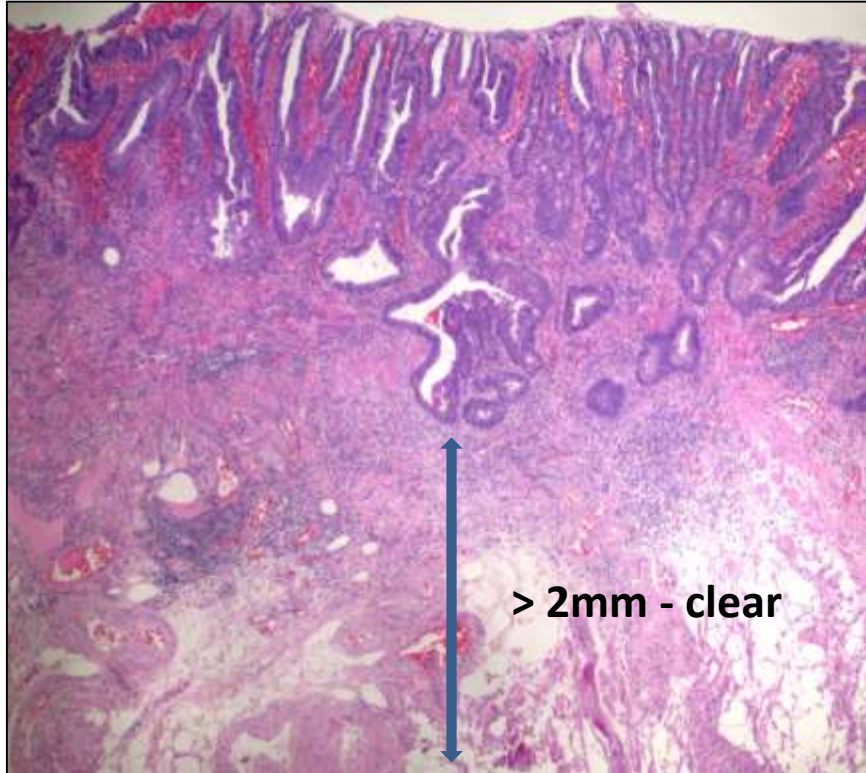
Beware!!! Neuroendocrine – very high risk of metastatic disease

## 2) Margin of resection

- positive variously defined
  - In diathermy artefact
  - 1 HP field
  - <1mm
  - <2mm from margin

**deep margin**
- Ueno et al Gastroenterology 2004;127:385-94 → only involvement of diathermy artefact is significant
- $\geq 1$  mm clearance Butte et al Dis Colon Rectum 2012;55:122-127
- **General agreement that  $\geq 2$ mm is definitely clear**





## 2) Margin of resection

- Risk:

Too high – Ueno = 12.5%; Envoi 12%,  
Butte 11.2% (INTACT polyps)

	Residual disease	Metastasis	Mortality
% (average)	30%	7%	8%
Odds ratio	15**	1	6

Hassan et al Dis Colon Rectum 2005;48:1588-96

- Interobserver agreement – good 86-93%
- positive margin = inadequate treatment **NOT** a risk for metastatic disease

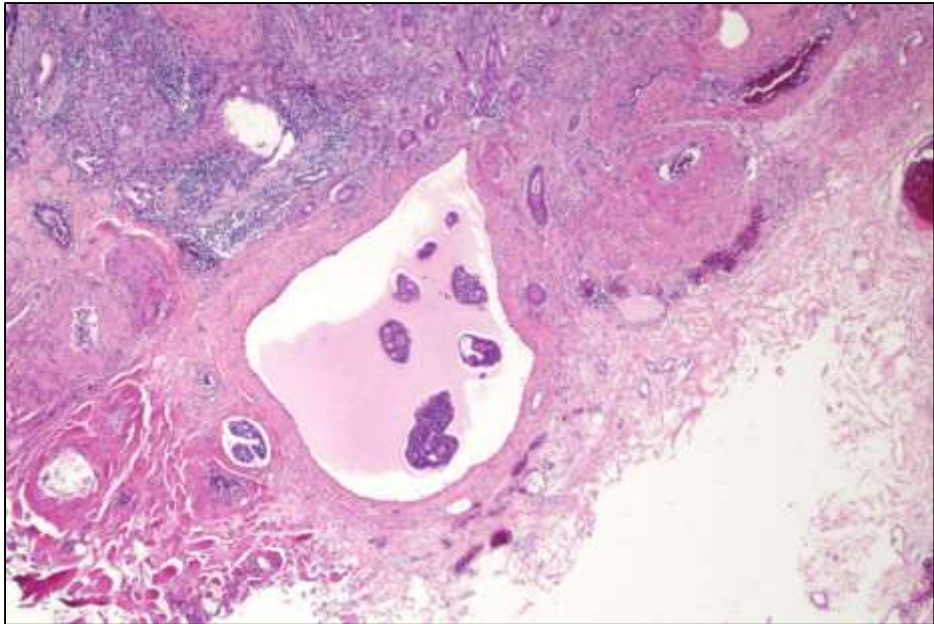
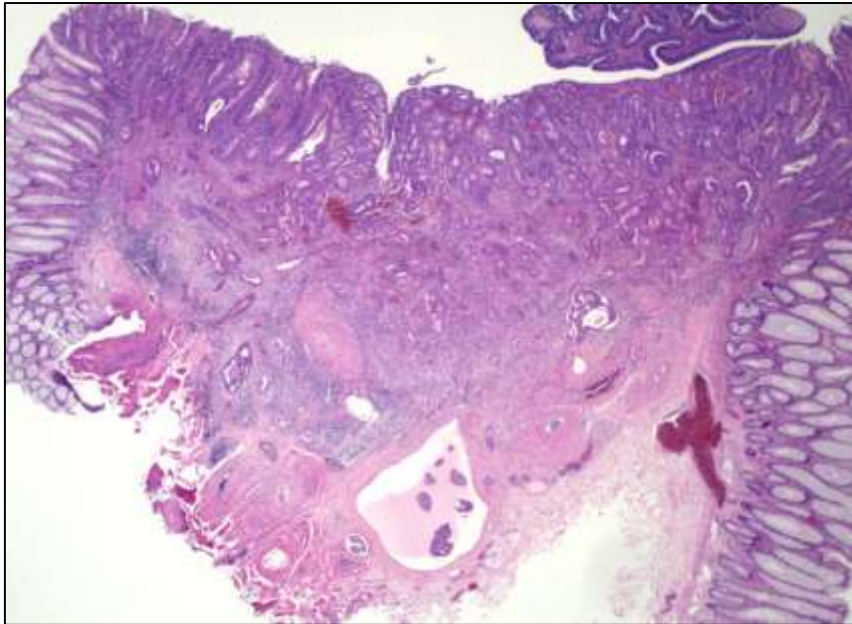
## 2) Margin of resection

- Positive margin 33% (using all definitions)
- Envoi
  - Diathermy involvement 27.2%
  - no residual disease if clearance  $>0.1\text{mm}$  above diathermy artefact
- Positive margin = 12% risk of residual disease (adenoma or adenocarcinoma) at site of polypectomy

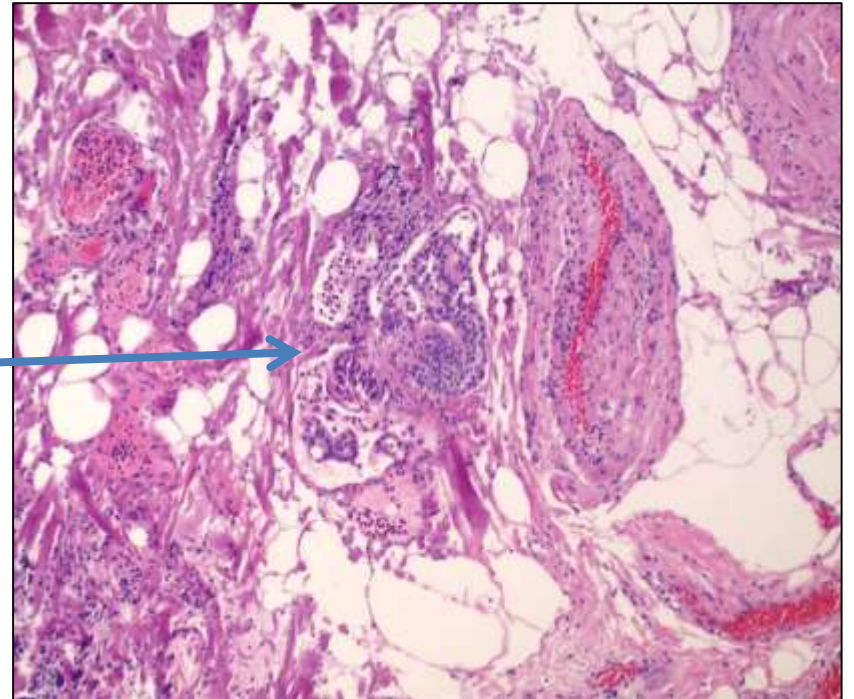
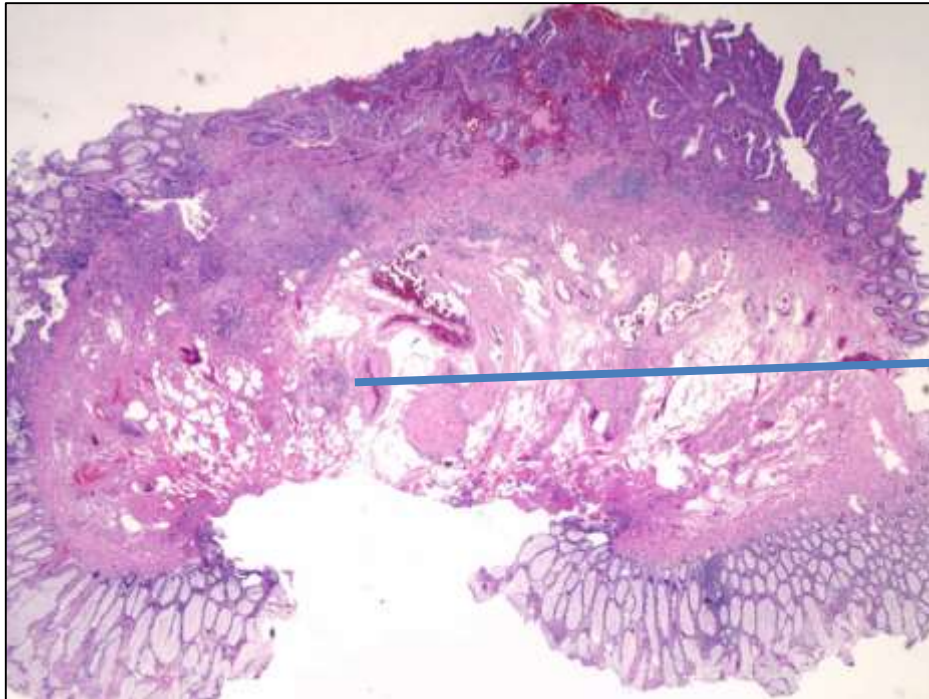
# 3) Vascular invasion

- Lymphatic or venous invasion
- Wide range of detection
  - 0-57% (average 18%)
    - Envoi LI = 23% VI = 9%, Butte = 18.2%, Ueno = 30%, Kawachi = 32%
  - PPV for LN mets is low (5-30%)
    - Only 7.3% of Envoi cases with LI had LN mets; 30% in Ueno, 19.2% in Butte
  - NPV for LN mets may also be poor
    - 50% in Butte; 67% at Envoi, 9% in Kawachi (resections) had LN mets despite no lymphatic invasion seen
- Has lead to inaccuracy/uncertainty in the significance of this prognostic factor

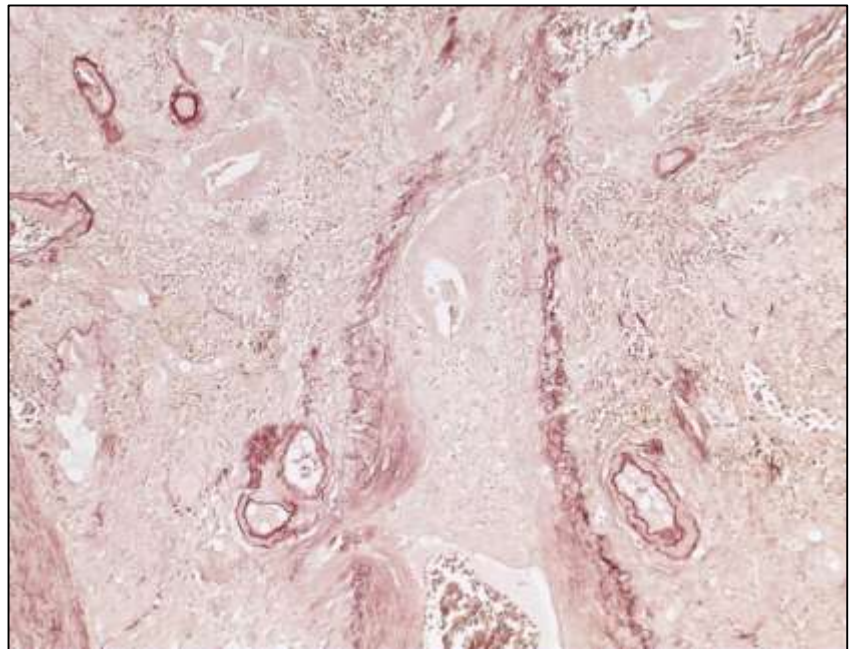
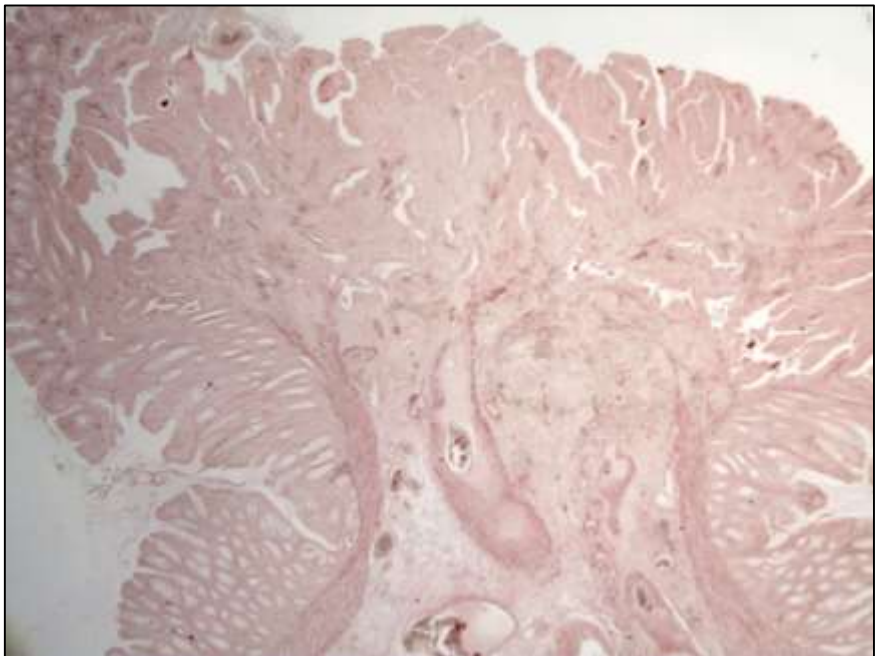
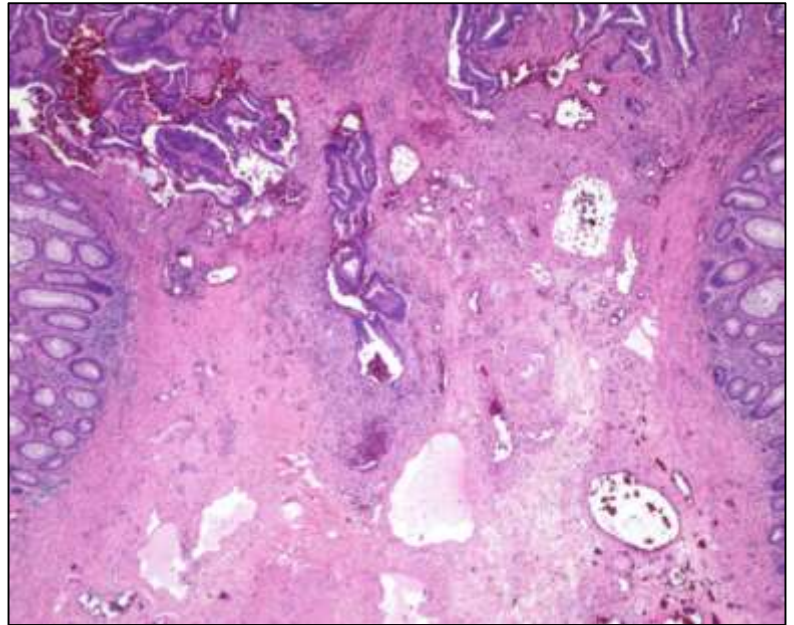
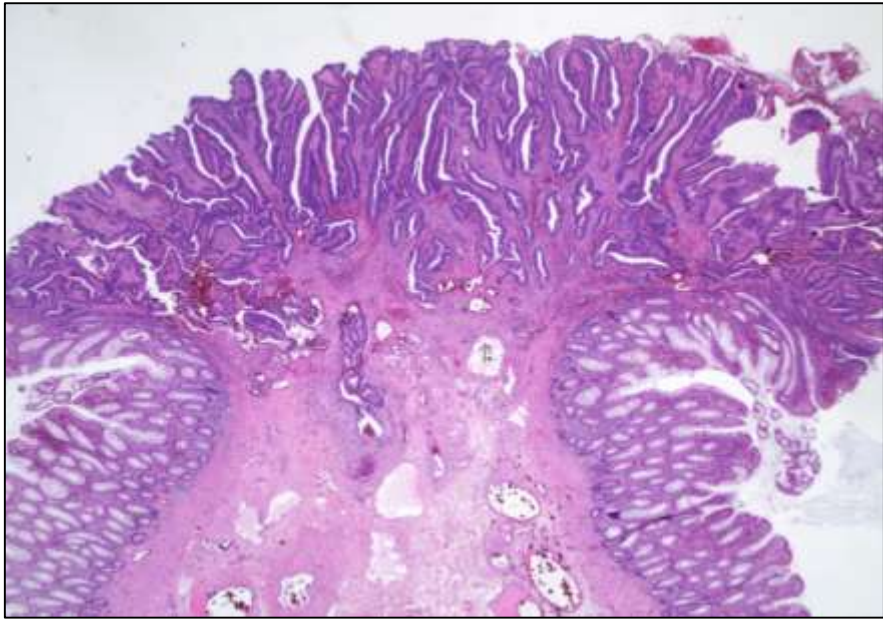
Sometimes easy!!

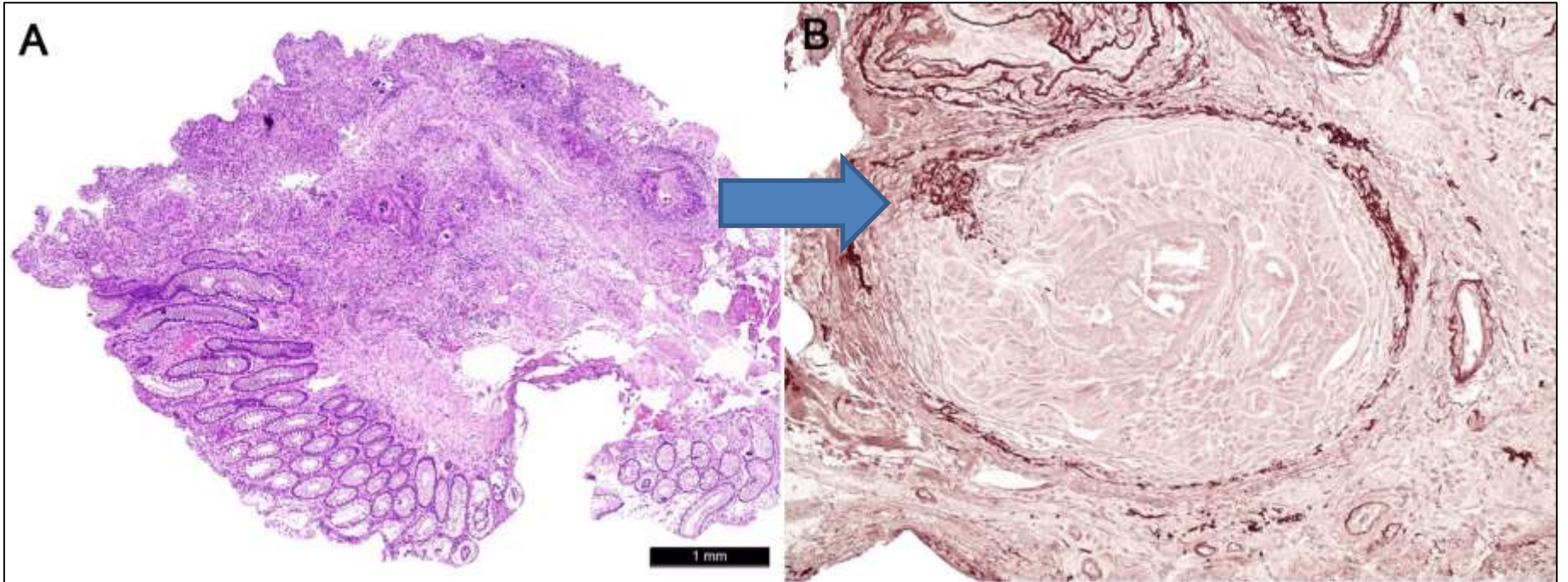


Often subtle – need to look carefully



Orcein stain – excellent for venous invasion detection







# 3) Vascular invasion

Too high!

	Residual disease	Metastasis	Mortality
% (average)	<b>18%</b>	<b>35%(LN)/5% (H)</b>	<b>3%</b>
Odds ratio - Hassan	<b>1</b>	<b>7/2**</b>	<b>1.5</b>
%/Odds ratio - Ueno		<b>31%/3 (multivariate)</b>	

Hassan et al Dis Colon Rectum 2005;48:1588-96  
Ueno et al Gastroenterology 2004;127:385-94

- usually associated with another adverse prognostic factor
- Vascular invasion does not add to risk when other adverse factors are already present
- Interobserver agreement is poor/moderate – 37-77%

## 4) Tumour budding

- Identified as a significant prognostic factor in several papers
  - Ueno et al Gastroenterology 2004;127:385-94
  - Tateishi et al Mod Path 2010;1:1-5
  - Sohn et al J Clin Pathol 2007;60:912-15
  - Katajima et al J Gastroenterol 2004;39:534-43
  - Yasuda et al Dis Colon Rectum 2007;50:1370-76
  - Choi et al Dis Colon Rectum 2009; 52: 438-445
  - Kawachi et al Mod Path 2015\*\*\*
- Uniform definition lacking – range from any budding to strict definitions

# Tumour budding

- Japanese criteria

- Budding/sprouting was counted in a field measuring  $0.95\text{mm}^2$  using a  $20\times$  objective lens and  $10\times$  ocular lens and classified as grade 1 (0–4 foci in the field), grade 2 (5–9 foci), or grade 3 ( $\geq 10$  foci)
- Only grade 2/3 is significant “high grade”
- Kawachi et al = no cases with high grade budding metastasized if invasive ca was  $<1\text{mm}$  deep

- US criteria

- $\geq 10$  buds = “high grade”

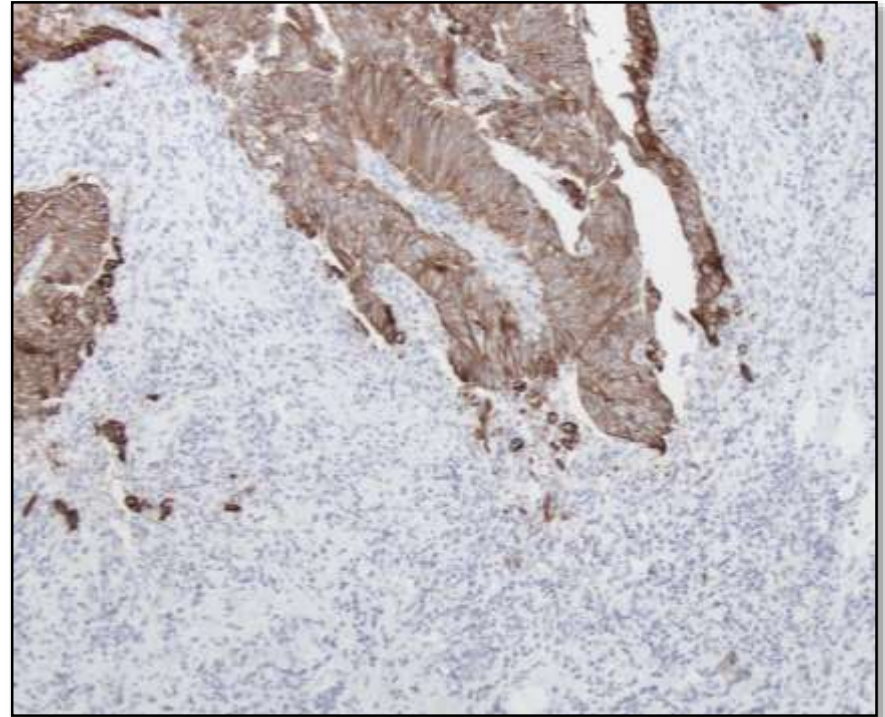
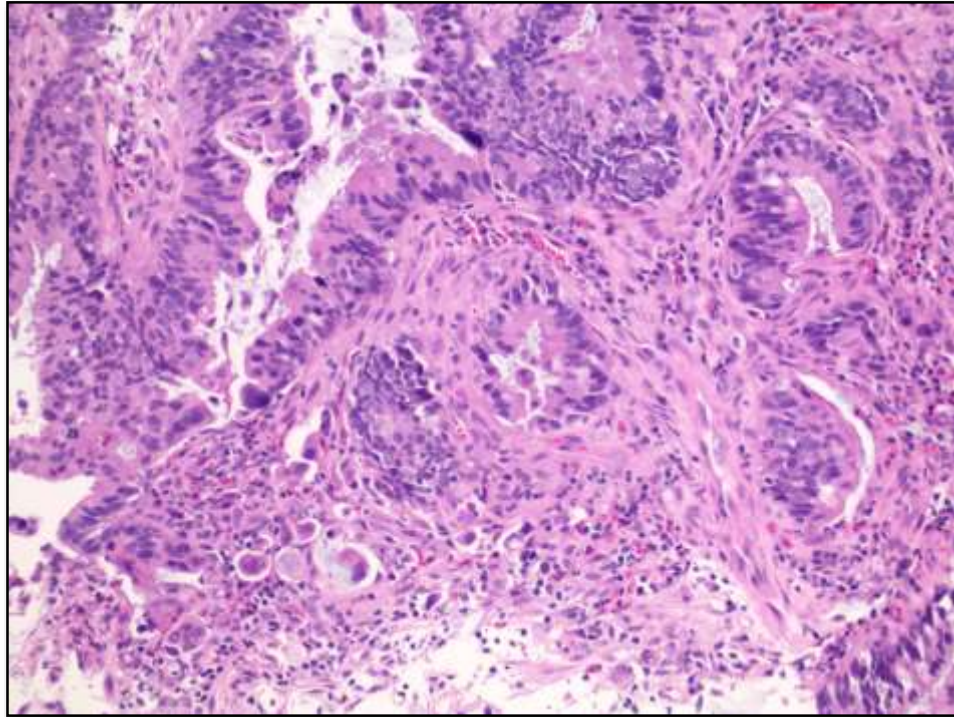
# Tumour budding

Problems:

## 1) Reproducibility

- Apparently high (AJSP 2015)
- But lots more buds if you use keratin

2) Field area of  $0.95\text{mm}^2$  = diameter 1.1mm so polyps  $<1\text{mm}$  are not reliably assessed and in the polyps reliably assessed it is probably not helpful to prognostication



## 4) Tumour budding

- Present in ~ 20-30% - however, bias to resection specimens in all studies (Envoi 29% - any)
- Risk
  - Kawachi – Odds ratio 3.14
- Prognostic relevance in malignant polyps treated only by endoscopy is still **not** established
- Perhaps tumour budding and poorly differentiated clusters should be merged into “high grade”

## 5) Polyp morphology

- Pedunculated vs sessile
- Sessile polyps have overall mortality 8 x that of pedunculated polyps
- Reason why sessile is worse = increased adverse factors are usually present:
  - poor differentiation
  - vascular invasion
  - **positive resection margin\*\***

# 5) Polyp morphology

- Overall increased risk for sessile polyps
- Risk for sessile polyp Vs pedunculated polyp – pooled analysis\*

	Residual/recurrent disease	Metastasis	Mortality
% (average) - S	<b>11%/6%</b>	<b>10%(LN)/4% (H)</b>	<b>5%</b>
% (average) - P	<b>3%/0.5%</b>	<b>10%(LN)/1% (H)</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
Odds ratio - Hassan	<b>4</b>	<b>1/4</b>	<b>10</b>

Hassan et al Dis Colon Rectum 2005;48:1588-96

\*approximation (multivariate)

? not an *independent* risk for LN metastasis  
However, most (85%) of sessile polyps had surgery



# 5) Polyp morphology

- Kawachi paper
  - slight increased risk for sessile polyps
  - but 80% of their polyps were sessile
- Envoi – no difference
- Problem
  - what is sessile and what is pedunculated?
    - Japanese series – 80% sessile
    - Western meta-analysis – 35% sessile
  - Pedunculated = presence of definite stalk

## 6) Rectal location

- Rectal location, in particular, the distal 1/3 of rectum is an adverse factor for:
  1. LN metastases (up to 1/3)
  2. Recurrent/Residual disease (5-28%)

Haggitt et al Gastroenterology 1985;89:328-36  
Nascimbeni R et al Dis Colon Rectum 2002;45:200–206  
Nivatvongs S. Surg Clin N Am 2002;82:959–966  
Butte et al Dis Colon Rectum 2012;55:122-127
- Reason is not clear from the literature
- Problem = surgery is ULAR or APR

## 6) Others

- **Cribriform pattern** – adverse in Ueno paper
- **Lymphatic density** – Kaneko et al Dis Colon Rectum 2006;50:1-9
- **Various IHC markers** – Matrix metalloproteinase expression, p53, p27  
Misaki et al Hirano et al
- **Carcinomatous destruction of muscularis mucosae vs retained muscularis mucosae** Tateishi et al Mod Path 2010;1:1-5
  - LN met rate
    - destroyed – 16%
    - preserved - 2%
- **Polypoid carcinoma**

# Pathological risk assessment

# Risk factors are additive

Ueno et al Gastroenterology 2004;127:385-94

## Adverse Qualitative

1. Poor differentiation
  2. Vascular invasion (L or V)
  3. Tumour budding
- (NOT margin involvement)

N° Factors	LN met risk
0	0.7%*
1	20.7%
≥2	36.4%

\* 7% micrometastasis rate

## Adverse Quantitative

1. Width  $\geq$  4mm
2. Depth  $\geq$  2mm
3. Haggitt level 3/4

Adverse Quantitative

+

Adverse Qualitative

= did not change the LN metastasis risk

# Risk factors are additive

Envoi data

Numbers of risk factors	Ueno's 3 risk factors	p value	Poor differentiation, cribriform pattern and invasive depth >2mm	p value	Poor differentiation, cribriform pattern and invasive width >4mm	p value
None	3/149 (2.0%)	0.016	0/97 (0%)	<0.0001	1/91 (1.1%)	<0.0001
1	4/49 (8.2%)		5/112 (4.5%)		3/116 (2.6%)	
2 or 3	5/41 (12.2%)		7/30 (23.3%)		8/32 (25.0%)	

# Risk factors are not equal

**Table 2** Multivariate analysis of the six parameters for lymph node metastasis using a logistic regression model

<i>Histologic parameters</i>	<i>Odds ratio</i>	<i>(95% confidence interval)</i>	<i>P-value</i>
Depth of submucosal invasion $\geq 1000 \mu\text{m}$	5.56	(2.14–19.10)	< 0.0001
High-grade budding/sprouting (grade 2 or 3)	3.14	(1.91–5.21)	< 0.0001
High histologic grade	1.88	(0.63–5.09)	0.25
Positive lymphatic invasion	1.53	(0.94–2.50)	0.09
Nonpedunculated type	1.49	(0.64–4.11)	0.37
Positive venous invasion	1.08	(0.67–1.74)	0.75

How should we approach the MCP?



## Size – as per Japanese

<1mm deep  
and  
<2mm wide

lymph node risk =  
0%

(no matter what other  
factors are present)

1-2mm deep  
or  
2-4mm wide

Lymph node risk =  
0-5%

(other adverse factors  
may additive to 10%)

>2mm deep  
or  
>4mm wide

Lymph node risk =  
5-10%

(other adverse factors  
additive to 10-20+%)

Adverse factor risk: Poor differentiation > tumour budding > LVI > rectal site

Margin involvement = 10-15% risk of residual adenoma or adenocarcinoma at polypectomy site

The haematogenous metastasis rate is <1-2% (with adverse risk factors)

# Piecemeal specimen

- Measure size of largest piece of invasive adenocarcinoma
  - If >2mm deep and >4mm wide then adverse
  - Other factors add to the risk
  - If <1mm deep and <2mm wide and only in one piece → no risk
- Margin status requires endoscopic determination

# Pathology report

Site

Size (as per Japanese)

Depth of invasion (mm)

Width of invasion (mm)

Haggitt  $\pm$  Kikuchi/Kudo level (optional)

Differentiation/grade (based on least differentiated area)

Tumour budding (high level)

Lymphatic invasion

Venous invasion

Margin status

Clearance (carcinoma to margin - deep/circumferential):

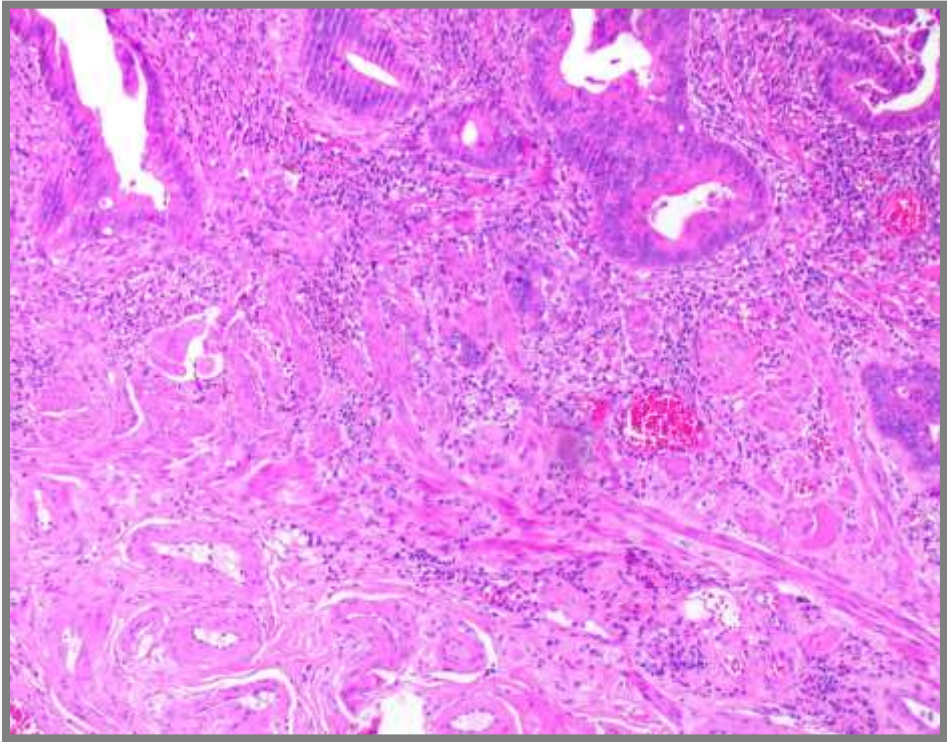
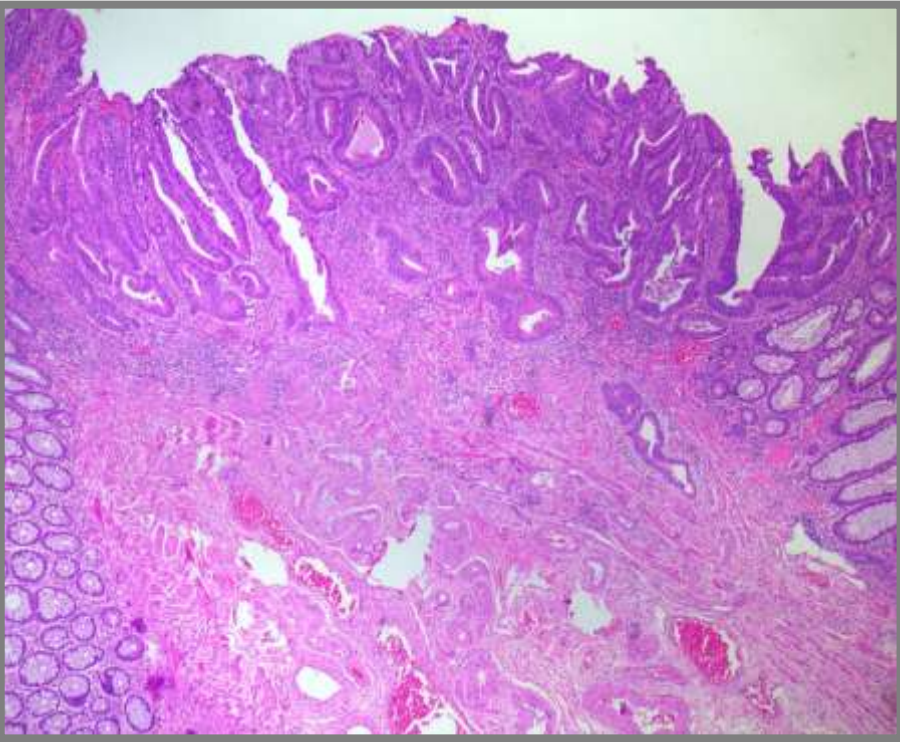
Mismatch repair IHC:

Adjacent adenoma type (if present):

Comment .....

# 'Intramucosal' adenocarcinoma

- Tis in TNM
- Vienna classification (Japan/Europe)
- Just high grade dysplasia (HGD) in USA
- Increasingly encountering invasive adenocarcinoma with extension into a thickened reduplicated muscularis mucosae but not through this layer
- HGD does not seem appropriate but ?any metastatic risk



# Pseudoinvasion

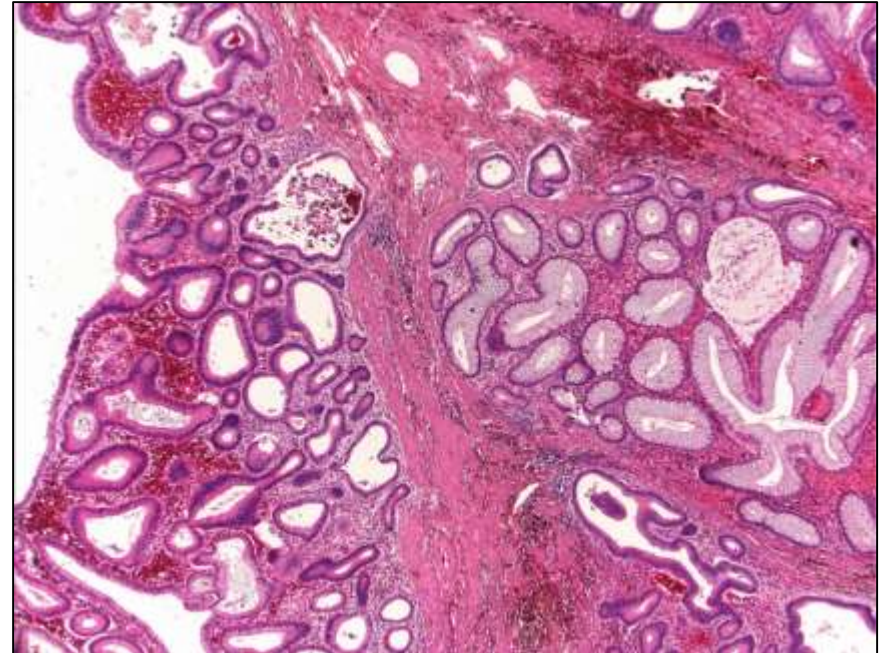
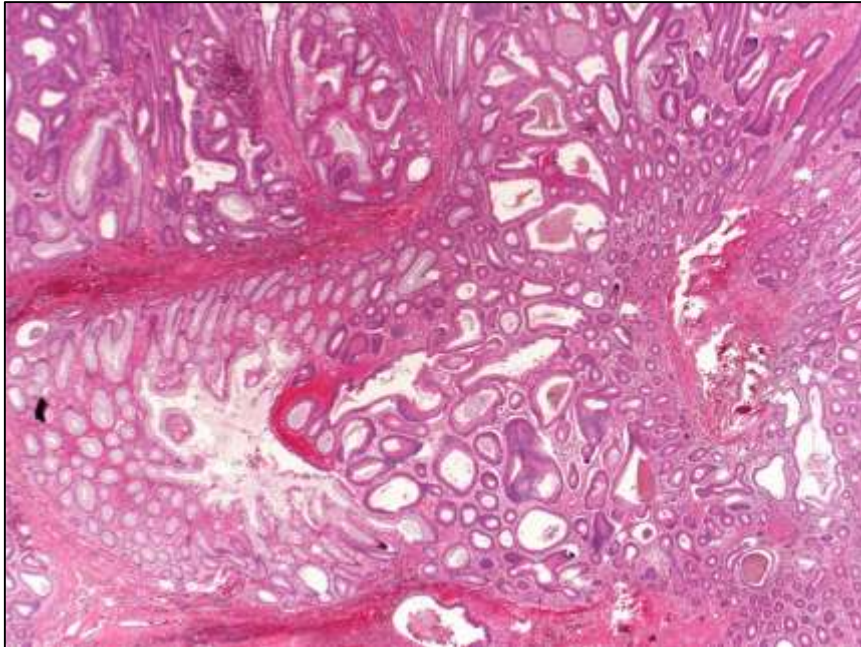
- 2-10% pedunculated polyps
- Left colon (sigmoid)
- Prolapse of dysplastic mucosa into submucosa following polyp torsion
- Note: can be associated with true invasive carcinoma
- Distinction from invasive carcinoma
  1. Architecture
  2. Stromal change
  3. Cytology

# Pseudoinvasion - architecture

- Narrow gap in muscularis mucosae

Tanazawa et al Pathology International. 2003;53: 584–590

- Rounded appearance to focus
- Rounded appearance of glands within focus

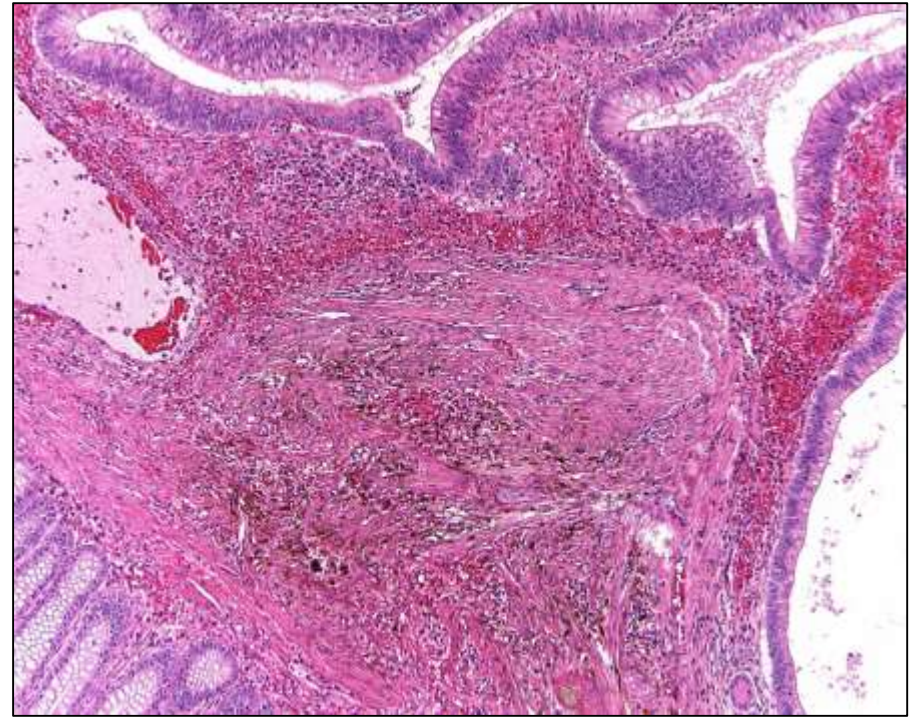
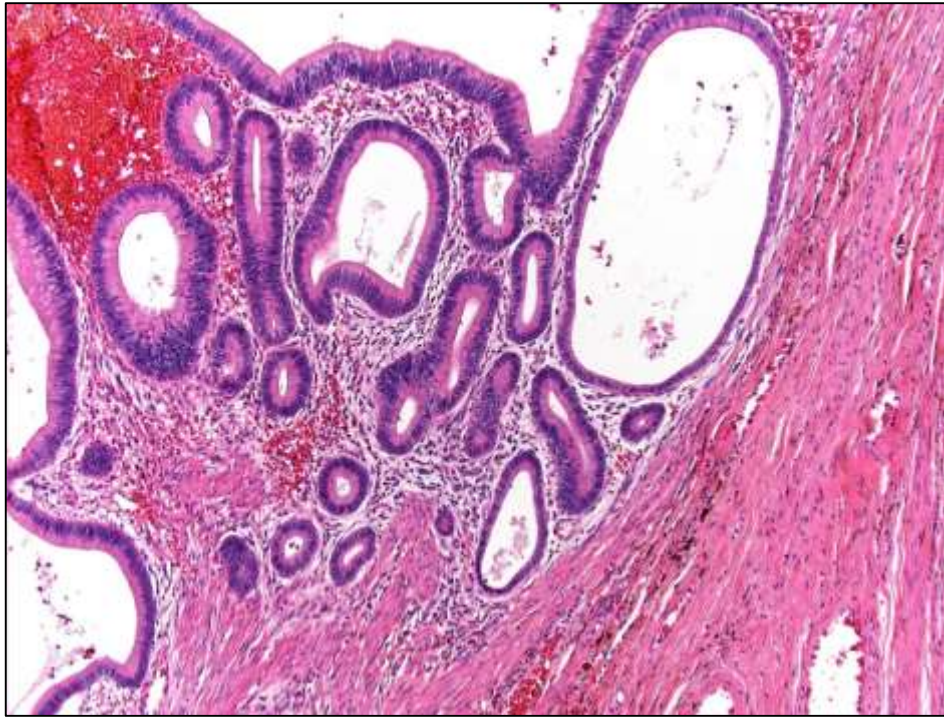


# Pseudoinvasion - stroma

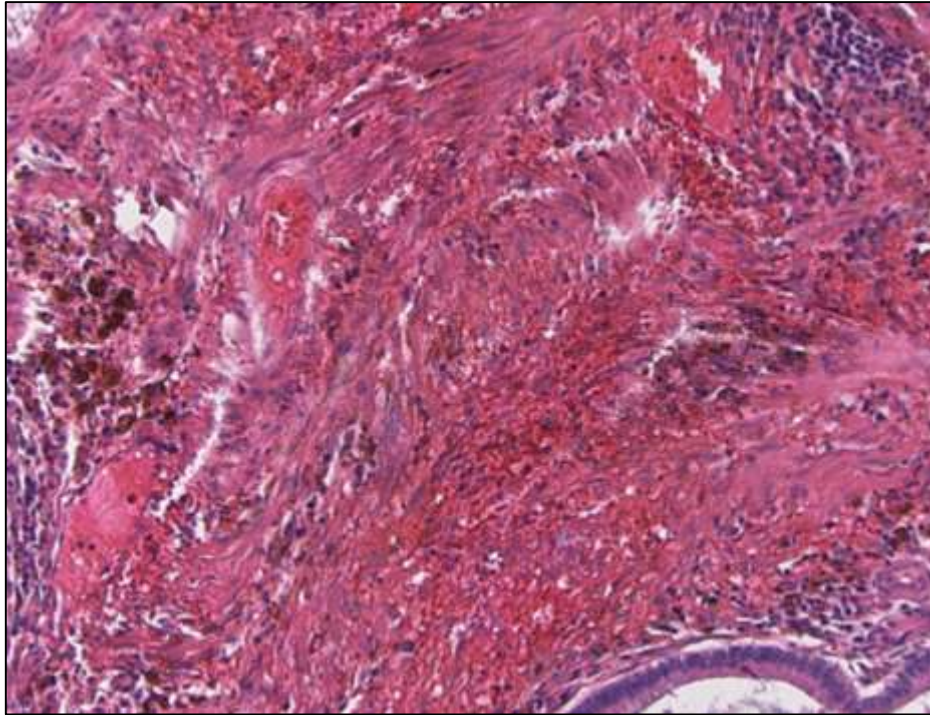
- Lamina propria surrounds glands
- Dense fibrosis (not desmoplasia)
- Smooth muscle hypertrophy (and 'fibromuscular')
- Haemosiderin
- Chronic inflammation
- Extravasated mucin
  - No epithelium or epithelium at edge – not epithelium floating in mucin pools



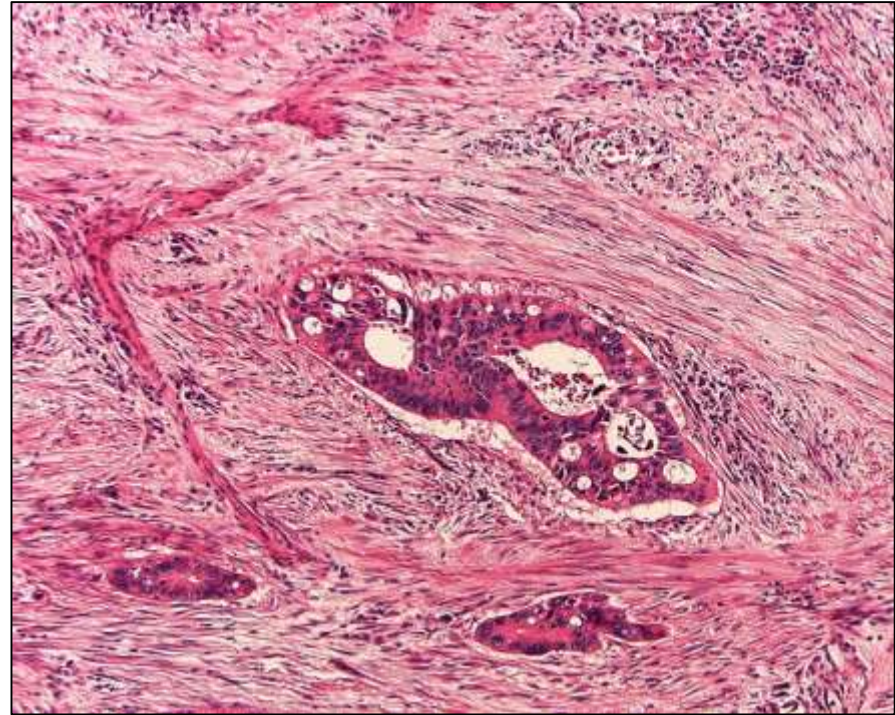
# Pseudoinvasion



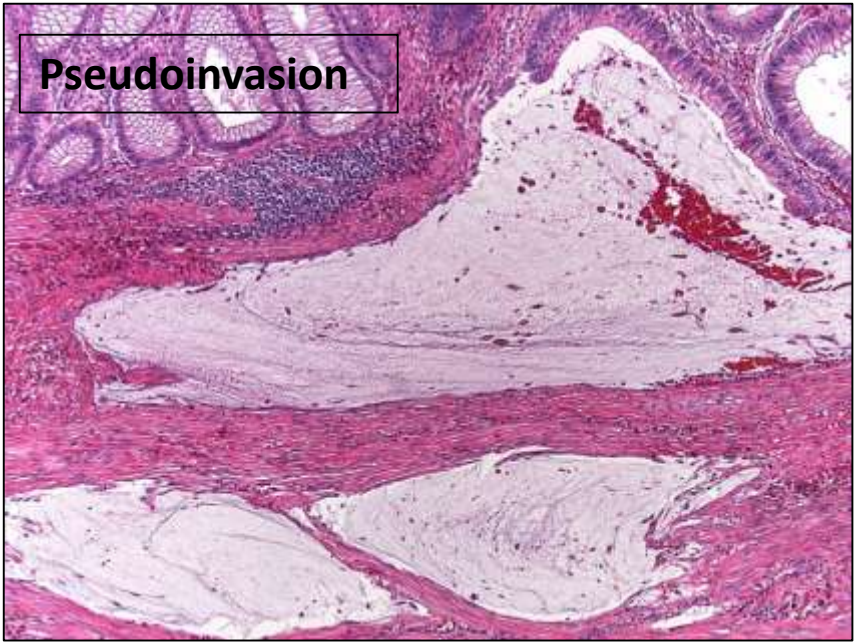
**Pseudoinvasion**



**Invasive carcinoma**

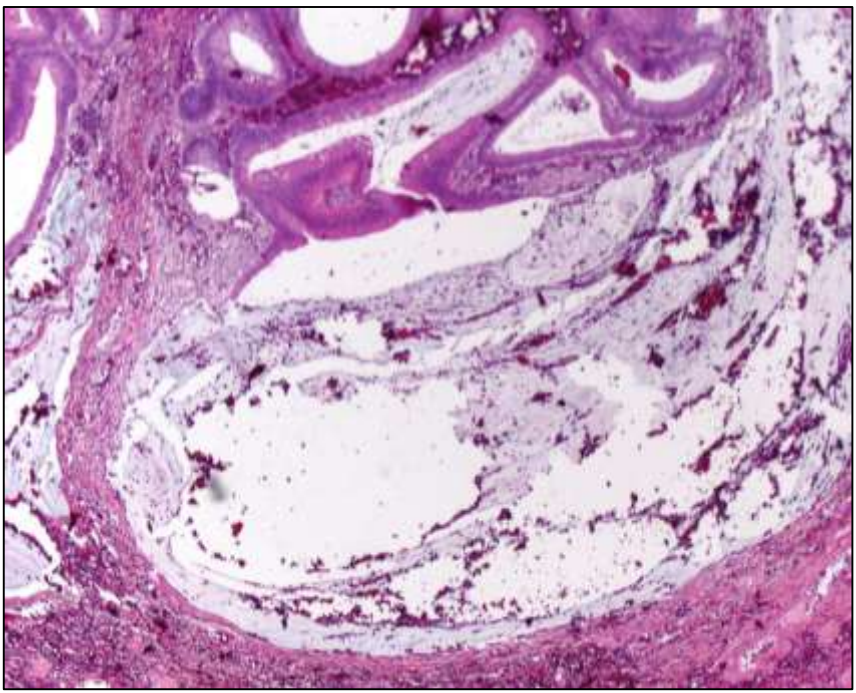
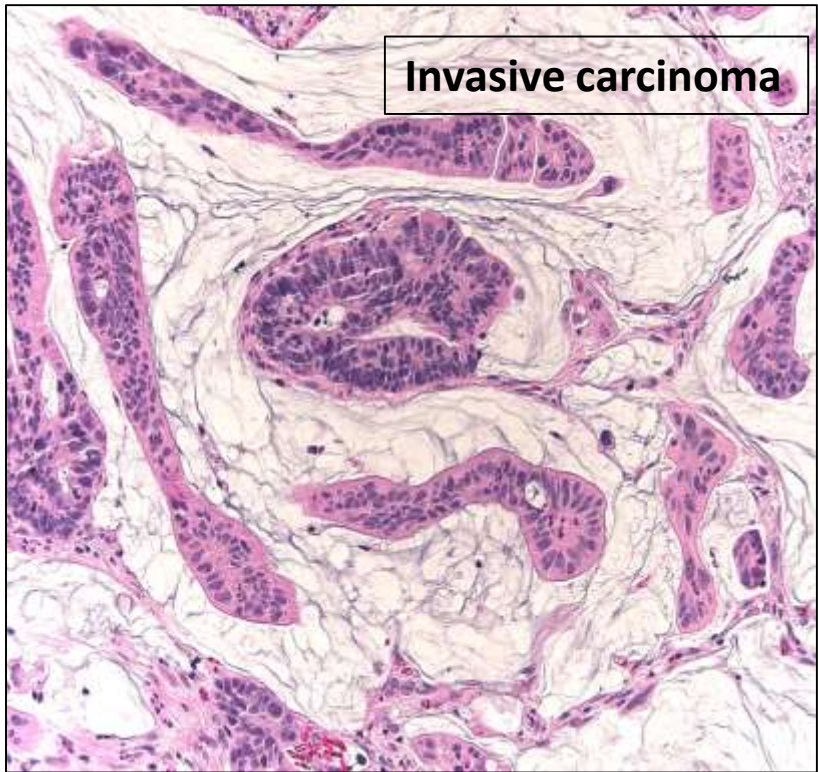


**Pseudoinvasion**



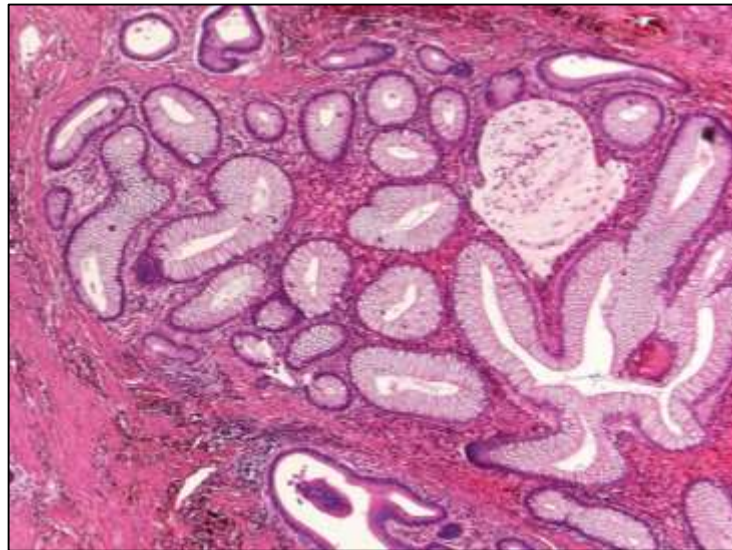
**Vs**

**Invasive carcinoma**



# Pseudoinvasion - cytology

- Same as in overlying mucosa
- Pseudoinvasion of non dysplastic normal epithelium



- If it looks like invasive carcinoma – it probably is!

# Pseudoinvasion - other

- p53 negative
- MMP-1 and Stromelysin-3 - negative
- Usually does not matter if we get it wrong since pseudoinvasive focus is clear of margin, vascular invasion negative and not poorly differentiated



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