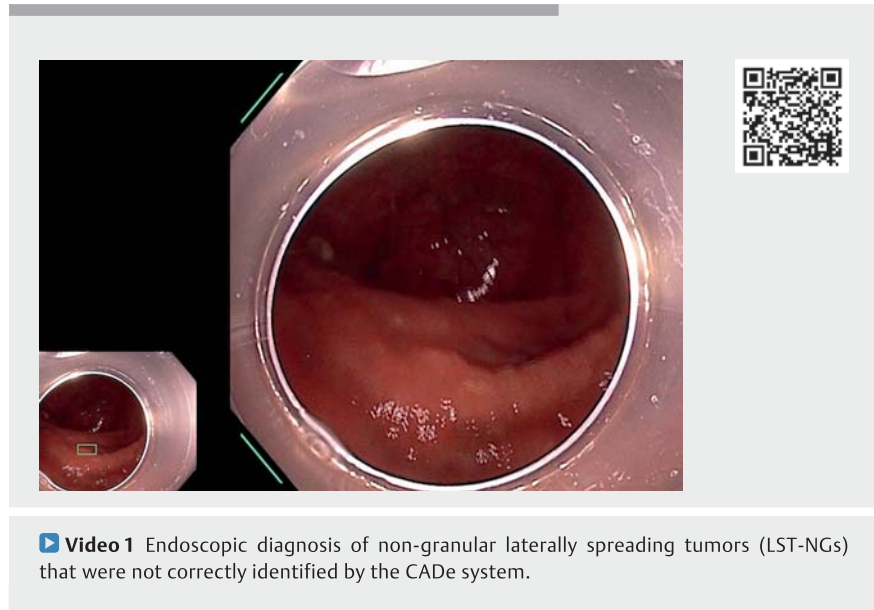


Non-granular laterally spreading tumors: potential superficial cancers that artificial intelligence does not easily detect

Artificial intelligence (AI) and especially deep learning have recently shown promising results in various medical fields involving endoscopic images [1, 2]. However, as AI becomes more and more powerful, we must remain careful and attentive in detection. We showed recently in a case report that a real-time computer-aided detection system (CADE) may have difficulties in detecting flat colorectal sessile serrated adenomas/polyps (SSA/Ps) [3]. Among the difficult lesions to detect, non-granular laterally spreading tumors (LST-NGs) represent a challenge because, in addition to their flat macroscopic form, which is difficult to identify, they are associated with advanced histology, with 27% of invasive cancers being found in the elevated non-granular forms and 47% in the pseudodepressed ones [4]. It is therefore a major challenge for diagnostic endoscopy that these are not missed, as they are potential interval cancers that will have become advanced by the next surveillance colonoscopy 3 or 5 years later.

We therefore aimed to assess the efficiency of a recent CADe system to identify LST-NGs, using the ENDO-AID software in combination with the EVIS X1 video column (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). We herein report three patients with LST-NG lesions measuring more than 4 cm each that were not correctly detected by



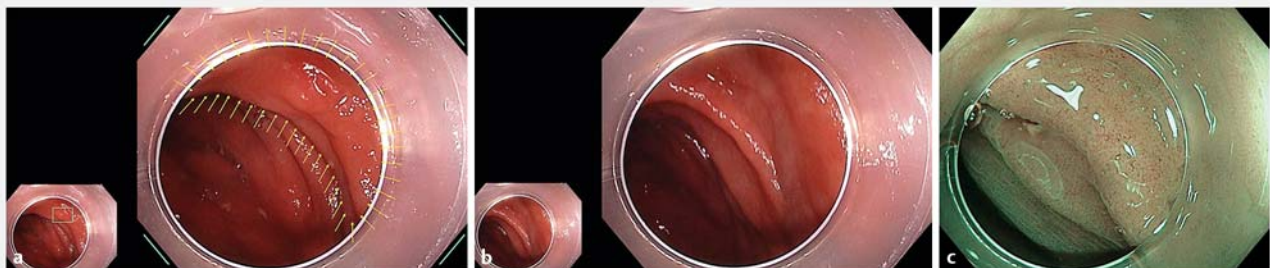
CADe (► **Video 1**). Because of their less visible edges, it seems that the tested CADe system is sometimes not sufficiently efficient in identifying the flat shape of these lesions, resulting in incomplete detections and false positives (► **Fig. 1**). These cases illustrate that potential superficial cancers, such as LST-NGs or SSA/Ps, can still be hard to detect, even with a recently developed CADe system. Deep learning algorithms have to be trained further to detect these rare lesions, which can in practice be hard to

detect with the human eye, and for which CADe assistance would be extremely valuable.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.



► **Fig. 1** Views of the same laterally spreading tumor on: **a** white-light endoscopy, with the CADe screen shown in the lower left corner showing the CADe detection area (green rectangle) and the real boundaries of the lesion (yellow arrows); **b** white-light endoscopy with no detection by CADe; **c** narrow-band imaging.

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