The residual tumor (R) classification is the gold standard for the evaluation of residual tumors after treatment [1]. As an important predictor of prognosis, it is of considerable clinical significance. It takes into account the clinical and pathological examination of the tumor. In the field of colorectal lesion resection, a resection is considered R0 when the tumor is removed in a single piece (en bloc) with tumor-free lateral and vertical margins. For resection of a superficial lesion to be considered curative, an R0 en bloc resection with histology no more advanced than a well-differentiated adenocarcinoma and submucosal invasion of less than 1 mm without lymphovascular invasion is currently required [2].

We herein report the case of a patient with a 4-cm granular laterally spreading tumor in the left colon (▶ Fig. 1). This lesion includes a 10-mm Kudo Vn Sano 3b demarcated area highly suspicious for deep invasive degeneration (▶ Fig. 2, ▶ Fig. 3). During endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD), contact was made with the lesion, which invaded the entire submucosa and probably even the initial fibers of the muscle (▶ Fig. 4, ▶ Video 1).

Although the resection was highly suspicious of R1 on clinical examination, pathological examination initially suggested a complete R0 resection. After reanalysis and new cut of slices, the resection was reclassified R1, and final histology of the resection specimen was in favor of a deep tumor deposit. This case of anatomical-clinical discordance shows that good collaboration between clinicians and pathologists remains essential. Pathological examination is also subject to sampling error: by
making 8-micrometer sections every 2000 micrometers, only 0.4% of the tumor volume is examined. Clinical examination of a lesion should take precedence over pathological examination. In practice, R0 en bloc resection could be a goal for all colorectal lesions. In the future, artificial intelligence may help overcome these limitations of pathological examination and determine more precisely the deepest point of invasion.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Pierre Lafeuille, Clara Yzet, Nicolas Benech, Florian Rostain, Thierry Ponchon, Jérôme Rivory, Mathieu Pioche

Department of Endoscopy and Hepatogastroenterology, Edouard Herriot Hospital, Lyon, France

Corresponding author

Pierre Lafeuille, MD
Endoscopy Unit – Digestive Disease
Department, Pavillon L – Edouard Herriot Hospital, 69437 Lyon Cedex, France
pierre.lafeuille@chu-lyon.fr

References


Bibliography

Endoscopy
DOI 10.1055/a-1816-7853
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2022
© 2022. The Author(s).
This is an open access article published by Thieme under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonDerivative-NonCommercial License, permitting copying and reproduction so long as the original work is given appropriate credit. Contents may not be used for commercial purposes, or adapted, remixed, transformed or built upon. (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)
Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany