## Advanced imaging for detection and differentiation of colorectal neoplasia: European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) Guideline – Update 2019



#### Authors

Raf Bisschops<sup>1</sup>, James E. East<sup>2, 3</sup>, Cesare Hassan<sup>4</sup>, Yark Hazewinkel<sup>5</sup>, Michał F. Kamiński<sup>6, 7, 8</sup>, Helmut Neumann<sup>9</sup>, Maria Pellisé<sup>10, 11</sup>, Giulio Antonelli<sup>12</sup>, Marco Bustamante Balen<sup>13, 14</sup>, Emmanuel Coron<sup>15</sup>, Georges Cortas<sup>16</sup>, Marietta Iacucci<sup>17</sup>, Mori Yuichi<sup>18</sup>, Gaius Longcroft-Wheaton<sup>19</sup>, Nastazja Pilonis<sup>20, 21</sup>, Ignasi Puig<sup>22, 23</sup>, Jeanin E. van Hooft<sup>5</sup>, Evelien Dekker<sup>5</sup>

#### Institutions

- 1 University Hospitals Leuven, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, TARGID, KU Leuven, Belgium
- 2 Translational Gastroenterology Unit, Nuffield Department of Medicine, Experimental Medicine Division, John Radcliffe Hospital, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
- 3 Oxford National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research Centre, Oxford, UK
- 4 Digestive Endoscopy Unit, Nuovo Regina Margherita Hospital, Rome, Italy
- 5 Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 6 Department of Gastroenterological Oncology, the Maria Sklodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland
- 7 Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Oncology, Medical Center for Postgraduate Education, Warsaw, Poland
- 8 Institute of Health and Society, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
- 9 Department of Medicine I, University Medical Center Mainz, Mainz, Germany
- 10 Department of Gastroenterology. Institut Clinic de Malalties Digestives I Metabòliques, Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
- 11 Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Enfermedades Hepáticas y Digestivas (CIBERehd), Institut d'Investigacions Biomediques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS), Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
- 12 Endoscopy Unit, Sant'Andrea University Hospital, "Sapienza" University of Rome, Rome, Italy
- 13 Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Unit, Digestive Diseases Department, La Fe Polytechnic University Hospital, Valencia, Spain
- 14 Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Research Group, La Fe Health Research Institute, Valencia, Spain

- 15 CHU Nantes, Université Nantes, Institut des Maladies de l'Appareil Digestif (IMAD), Nantes, France
- 16 Division of Gastroenterology, University of Balamand Faculty of Medicine, St. George Hospital University Medical Center, Beirut, Lebanon
- 17 Institute of Translational of Medicine, Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy and NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, University of Birmingham and University Hospitals, Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, UK
- 18 Digestive Disease Center, Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital, Yokohama, Japan
- 19 Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Cosham, Portsmouth, UK
- 20 Department of Gastroenterological Oncology, Maria Sklodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland
- 21 Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Oncology, Medical Center for Postgraduate Education, Warsaw, Poland
- 22 Digestive Diseases Department, Althaia Xarxa Assistencial Universitària de Manresa, Manresa, Spain
- 23 Department of Medicine, Facultat de Ciències de la Salut, Universitat de Vic-Universitat Central de Catalunya (UVic-UCC), Manresa, Spain

#### Bibliography

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#### **Corresponding author**

Raf Bisschops, MD PhD, University Hospitals Leuven, Targid, Gastroenterology and Hepatolgy, 49 Herestraat, Leuven 3000, Belgium Fax: +32344419 raf.bisschops@uzleuven.be Supplementary material Online content viewable at: https://doi.org/10.1055/a-1031-7657

#### MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

1 ESGE suggests that high definition endoscopy, and dye or virtual chromoendoscopy, as well as add-on devices, can be used in average risk patients to increase the endoscopist's adenoma detection rate. However, their routine use must be balanced against costs and practical considerations. Weak recommendation, high quality evidence.

**2** ESGE recommends the routine use of high definition systems in individuals with Lynch syndrome.

Strong recommendation, high quality evidence.

**3** ESGE recommends the routine use, with targeted biopsies, of dye-based pancolonic chromoendoscopy or virtual chromoendoscopy for neoplasia surveillance in patients with long-standing colitis.

Strong recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

4ESGE suggests that virtual chromoendoscopy and dyebased chromoendoscopy can be used, under strictly controlled conditions, for real-time optical diagnosis of diminutive ( $\leq 5$  mm) colorectal polyps and can replace histopathological diagnosis. The optical diagnosis has to be reported using validated scales, must be adequately photodocumented, and can be performed only by experienced endoscopists who are adequately trained, as defined in the ESGE curriculum, and audited.

Weak recommendation, high quality evidence.

**5** ESGE recommends the use of high definition white-light endoscopy in combination with (virtual) chromoendoscopy to predict the presence and depth of any submucosal invasion in nonpedunculated colorectal polyps prior to any treatment.

Strong recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

**6**ESGE recommends the use of virtual or dye-based chromoendoscopy in addition to white-light endoscopy for the detection of residual neoplasia at a piecemeal polypectomy scar site.

Strong recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

**7**ESGE suggests the possible incorporation of computeraided diagnosis (detection and characterization of lesions) to colonoscopy, if acceptable and reproducible accuracy for colorectal neoplasia is demonstrated in high quality multicenter in vivo clinical studies. Possible significant risks with implementation, specifically endoscopist deskilling and over-reliance on artificial intelligence, unrepresentative training datasets, and hacking, need to be considered. Weak recommendation, low quality evidence.

ADD	DEV		
ADD	<b>NEV</b>		<b>C V</b>

ADDKEVIA			
ADR	adenoma detection rate	HGD	high grade dysplasia
AFI	autofluorescence imaging endoscopy	I-SCAN	i-SCAN digital contrast
AI	artificial intelligence	JNET	Japan NBI Expert Team
ASGE	American Society for Gastrointestinal Endos-	LCI	linked color imaging
	сору	LGD	low grade dysplasia
BLI	blue light imaging	LST	laterally spreading tumor
CE	chromoendoscopy	MB-MMX	methylene blue formulation
CI	confidence interval	NBI	narrow band imaging
CRC	colorectal cancer	NICE	NBI International Colorectal Endoscopic
EMR	endoscopic mucosal resection	NG	nongranular
ESD	endoscopic submucosal dissection	PDR	polyp detection rate
ETMI	endoscopic trimodal imaging	PICO	patient, intervention, comparator, outcome
FACILE	Frankfurt Advanced Chromoendoscopic IBD	RCT	randomized controlled trial
	LEsions	SD-WLE	standard definition white-light endoscopy
FAP	familial adenomatous polyposis	SPS	serrated polyposis syndrome
FICE	flexible spectral imaging color enhancement	SSL	sessile serrated lesion
FTRD	full thickness resection device	UC	ulcerative colitis
GRADE	Grading of Recommendations Assessment,	WASP	Workgroup serrAted polypS and Polyposis
	Development and Evaluation	WLE	white-light endoscopy
HD-WLE	high definition white-light endoscopy		

#### SOURCE AND SCOPE

This Guideline is an official statement of the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE). It is a revision of the previously published 2014 Guideline addressing the role of advanced endoscopic imaging for detection and differentiation of colorectal neoplasia.

#### Introduction

Colonoscopy is the key examination technique in colorectal cancer (CRC) screening programs for detection and treatment of early precursor lesions and timely diagnosis of colorectal cancer [1,2]. The quality of colonoscopy, which depends on both bowel preparation and examination technique, is the main determining factor that drives the protective effect of this invasive examination in decreasing the societal disease burden [3-5].

Over the last 15 years, several new techniques to improve polyp detection and characterization have been developed and studied [6]. For all these techniques, the possible financial burden, learning curve, and additional cost need to be balanced against the potential benefit. In general, there is a potential bias in the available literature given that it is impossible to blind the endoscopist to the technique that is being studied. Therefore, even the setting of a fully randomized trial, there is always a potential bias in favor of any technique that may affect the performance of the endoscopists, even subconsciously.

This update of the previously published Guideline [7] aims to put into perspective the new evidence that has become available over the last 5 years, and to provide statements on the possible role of advanced techniques in polyp detection or characterization in the average risk and high risk populations. The potential role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the detection and characterization of colorectal lesions, including possible hazards of its implementation, has been addressed for the first time.

With regard to training, in optical diagnosis of diminutive polyps, detection of colitis-associated neoplasia, and prediction of invasion with larger polyps, we refer to the standardized ESGE training curriculum. Although this is a work in progress, we anticipate that the curriculum will be available in 2020 and want to include this defined standard in the Guideline as a prerequisite for obtaining cognitive chromoendoscopy (CE) skills for lesion characterization and detection.

#### Methods

The ESGE commissioned this Guideline (Guideline Committee chair, J.v.H.) and appointed a guideline leader (R.B.), who invited the listed authors to participate in the project development. The key questions were prepared by the coordinating team (R.B., E.D., J.E.E., M.P., M.K., C.H., H.N.) and were then approved by the other members. The coordinating team established task force subgroups, based on the statements of the previous 2014 Guideline [7], each with its own leader, and

divided the key topics among those task forces (**Appendix 1s**; see online-only Supplementary Material) with a specific focus on the update of literature and revision of the statements.

The Guideline was developed during September 2018 and June 2019. The work included telephone conferences, a faceto-face meeting, and online discussions, and additional Delphi voting if necessary. In addition to the five task forces of the previous Guideline, we included a sixth task force to address the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the detection and characterization of colorectal polyps. The task forces conducted a literature search related to the following techniques: high definition endoscopy, chromoendoscopy or dye-based endoscopy, virtual chromoendoscopy (narrow band imaging [NBI], i-SCAN digital contrast [I-SCAN], flexible spectral imaging color enhancement [FICE], and blue light imaging [BLI]), autofluorescence imaging (AFI) endoscopy, and add-on devices. Techniques that have been under development or without clear clinical implementation since the publication of the previous Guideline were not included (i.e., confocal endomicroscopy, endocytoscopy, optical coherence tomography). Key questions were formulated using patient, intervention, comparator, outcome (PICO) methodology [8].

The literature search was conducted through Medline (via Pubmed) and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials up to June 2019. New evidence on each key question was summarized in tables, using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) system [9]. Grading depends on the balance between the benefits and risk or burden of any health intervention (**Appendix 2s**). Further details on guideline development have been previously reported [10].

The results of the search were presented to all group members during a meeting in Prague on April 1st 2019. Subsequently, drafts were made by each task force chair and distributed between the task force members for revision and online discussion. Statements were created by consensus, or by Delphi voting of two rounds for task force 2.

In July 2019, a draft prepared by R.B. and all the task force chairs was sent to all group members. After agreement of all members had been obtained, the manuscript was reviewed by two external reviewers, Prof. Brian Saunders and Dr. David Tate. It was then sent for further comments to the ESGE national societies and individual members. It was then submitted to the journal *Endoscopy* for publication. The final revised manuscript was agreed upon by all the authors.

This Guideline was issued in 2019 and will be considered for update in 2024. Any interim updates will be noted on the ESGE website: http://www.esge.com/esge-guidelines.html.

#### **Evidence and statements**

Evidence statements are compared to those of the previous 2014 Guideline [7]. The 2014 statements are shown in italic. The statements are grouped according to the different task force topics.

# Detection of colorectal neoplasia in the average risk population

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### 2014 statements:

ESGE suggests the routine use of high definition white-light endoscopy systems for detecting colorectal neoplasia in average risk populations (weak recommendation, moderate quality evidence).

ESGE does not recommend routine use of virtual pancolonic chromoendoscopy, AFI, or add-on devices for detecting colorectal neoplasia in average risk populations (strong recommendation, high quality evidence).

#### 2019 statement:

ESGE suggests that high definition endoscopy, and dye or virtual chromoendoscopy, as well as add-on devices, can be used in average risk patients to increase the endoscopist's adenoma detection rate. However, their routine use must be balanced against costs and practical considerations.

Weak recommendation, high quality evidence.

The term "average risk population" refers to patients undergoing screening colonoscopy outside the setting of colitis or hereditary syndromes. Colorectal cancer screening is performed on a large scale in Europe, and therefore a small increase in adenoma detection may have a significant effect on the health care outcome of colorectal cancer [11]. Nonetheless, because of the widespread use of colonoscopy for colorectal cancer screening, the cost and practicality of advanced imaging techniques or add-on devices must be taken into consideration to avoid excessive financial or organizational burdens.

#### High definition endoscopy

A 2011 meta-analysis of five studies including 4422 average risk patients showed a 3.5% (95% confidence interval [CI] 0.9%-6.1%) incremental yield from high definition white-light endoscopy (HD-WLE) over standard definition white-light endoscopy (SD-WLE) for the detection of patients with at least one adenoma [12]. There were no differences between HD-WLE and SD-WLE for high risk adenomas. We postulate that the difference in the fields of view of the endoscopes that were used is unlikely to account for the increased yield observed with HD-WLE, because three randomized controlled trials (RCTs) from two centers found no significant difference in polyp detection rates between SD-WLE endoscopies with 140° and 170° fields of view [13-15].

Also in a two-center RCT [16] published after the metaanalysis, the proportion of participants in whom adenomas were detected with HD-WLE was higher as compared with SD-WLE (45.7% vs. 38.6%, P=0.166). The difference was significant for patients with flat adenomas (9.5% vs. 2.4%, P=0.003) and right-sided adenomas (34.0% vs. 19.0%, P= 0.001). A recent RCT [17] comparing HD-WLE with SD-WLE in 1855 patients has shown a significant increase in detection of sessile serrated lesions, also precursors for CRC (8.2% vs. 3.8%), as well as adenocarcinomas (2.6% vs. 0.5%). However, in this study no difference in adenoma detection rate (ADR) or polyp detection rate (PDR) was seen.

Two recent multicenter RCTs [18, 19] have postulated that two generations of improvements in colonoscopes are necessary to significantly increase ADR. The two RCTs compared the latest generation HD-WLE colonoscopes from one company (Olympus 190C) against standard definition next-to-last generation colonoscopes (Olympus 160C) in both a hospital [18] and in a private practice [19] setting. Results from the two trials were not fully concordant. In the hospital setting, a significant decrease in adenoma miss rates was found with high definition colonoscopes (16.6%, 95%CI 13.0% - 20.1% vs. 30.2%, 95%CI 25.9%-34.6%; P<0.001) as well as a significant increase in ADR (43.8% vs. 36.5%, P=0.03) [18]. In the private practice setting [19] however, the ADR difference in favor of the latestgeneration colonoscope did not reach statistical significance (32% vs. 28%, P=0.10). The detection of diminutive polyps (<5mm) was significantly increased (22.5% vs. 15.6%, P< 0.001) for HD-WLE, as well as the adenoma per patient rate (all adenomas/all patients: 0.57 vs. 0.47, P<0.001). Details of these RCTs are available in Table 1s (see Appendix 3s; onlineonly Supplementary Material).

The cost– effectiveness of using HD-WLE in routine practice was not studied. High definition colonoscopes are available from all major manufacturers.

Based on the above results with moderate-to-high quality evidence, we can conclude that high definition systems may be of benefit to improve polyp and adenoma detection, although trial results are not entirely consistent.

#### Virtual chromoendoscopy

#### Narrow band imaging (NBI)

Four meta-analyses and one Cochrane systematic review of RCTs compared detection of colorectal lesions in average risk populations using WLE and NBI [20-24]. When considering HD-WLE versus HD-NBI, none of these showed a significant difference in adenoma detection rate between the two technologies. HD-NBI showed a small increase in detection rate when compared to SD-WLE only.

A very recent meta-analysis [25] comprised data of 4491 individual patients from 11 RCTs. In this study, high definition NBI (HD-NBI) showed a significant increase in unadjusted odds ratio for adenoma detection compared to HD-WLE (OR 1.14, 95%CI 1.01 - 1.29, P = 0.04; ADRs, HD-WLE 42.3% vs. HD-NBI 45.2%). When subanalyses were performed, NBI showed an increased detection only when preparation was best (compared to average). Moreover, it was only second-generation NBI, with a brighter light, that significantly increased ADR, and not the first-generation (second-generation NBI OR 1.28, 95%CI 1.05 - 1.56, P = 0.02).

We can therefore conclude that the additional value of NBI in polyp detection is rather marginal, taking into consideration the marginal significance in the meta-analysis. The introduction of better imaging quality with HD systems has probably a more important role.

# i-SCAN digital contrast (I-SCAN), flexible spectral imaging color enhancement (FICE), blue light imaging (BLI), and linked color imaging (LCI)

One meta-analysis, published in 2014 and including 5 studies with 3032 patients [23], compared HD-FICE and HD-i-SCAN versus HD-WLE in the detection of adenomas and found no additional detection with these advanced techniques (RR 1.09, 95%CI 0.97 – 1.23).

An RCT [26] published after the meta-analysis showed a favorable result for I-SCAN technology, with a significantly higher ADR in the I-SCAN group compared to the HD-WLE colonoscopy group (47.2% vs. 37.7%, P=0.01). This result, however, was mainly due to an increased detection rate of diminutive, flat, and right-sided adenomas.

Data on BLI and LCI for the detection of colorectal lesions are preliminary. Recent RCTs on LCI showed an increased perpatient ADR compared to HD-WLE (37% vs. 28%) [27], as well as a reduction in the miss rate in the right colon [28]. The single recent RCT on BLI [29] showed an increased mean adenoma per patient rate (mean  $\pm$  standard deviation [SD] 1.27 $\pm$ 1.73 vs. 1.01 $\pm$ 1.36, P = 0.008), but no increase in ADR or PDR compared to HD-WLE.

Details of the most important studies are available in Table 2s.

In conclusion, data on advanced imaging with these techniques is scarce and the beneficial effect in terms of incremental polyp detection seems to be clinically marginal.

#### Autofluorescence imaging (AFI) endoscopy

One meta-analysis published in 2015 [30], including six RCTs and 1199 patients, evaluated AFI for the detection of colorectal neoplasia in average risk patients, and showed no significant difference between AFI and WLE in ADR or PDR (ADR, OR 1.01, 95%CI 0.74–1.37, P=0.96; PDR, OR 0.86, 95%CI 0.57–1.30, P=0.71), with no significant heterogeneity among the studies (P=0.67,  $l^2=0$ ).

One recently published RCT [31] focused on the role of updated AFI in the detection of flat lesions and showed a significant increase in the detection of right-sided flat lesions (adenomas and carcinoma, not sessile serrated polyps) (0.87, 95%CI 0.78–0.97 vs 0.53, 95%CI 0.46–0.61), but no increase in overall ADR or PDR.

Details of these two studies are available in Table 3 s.

Based on the findings of the meta-analysis there seems to be no major additional value of AFI for polyp detection in the average risk population. In addition, the system is not commercially available.

#### Add-on devices

In 2018, two network meta-analyses investigating the efficacy of add-on devices to improve ADR (cap, Endocuff, Endorings) were published [32, 33] (**Table 4s**).

One network meta-analysis, including 25 RCTs and 16 103 patients [32], showed an overall slight increase in ADR for add-on devices compared to standard colonoscopy (39.3% vs. 35.1%; relative risk [RR] 1.13, 95%CI 1.03-1.23; P= 0.007). When individual devices were considered, both Endocuff versus HD-WLE and Endorings versus standard colonoscopy showed a small but significant improvement in ADR; these however would be of benefit mostly for already high-performing endoscopists. The use of a short transparent cap at the tip of the endoscope resulted in a statistically insignificant increase in ADR compared to HD-WLE (37% vs. 34.3%; RR 1.07, 95%CI 0.96 - 1.19; P = 0.19). However, the considerable heterogeneity  $(l^2 = 89\%)$  should lead to cautious interpretation of these results. Subgroup analysis revealed a substantial increase of ADR and PDR of lesions ≤ 5 mm (RR 1.53, 95 % CI 1.13 – 1.71, RR 1.38, 95 %CI 1.10 – 1.43, respectively).

The second network meta-analysis [33] included 10 studies reporting on 6047 patients and showed, in contrast to the first, an overall increase in ADR for Endocuff in comparison to HD-WLE (OR 1.36, 95%CI 1.12–1.60; P=0.001), but when a subgroup analysis was performed this was only significant in low-performing endoscopists (for ADR <25%: OR 1.85, 95%CI 1.35–2.53, P=0.0001).

Most RCTs do not report cost-effectiveness data and this aspect has not yet been evaluated systematically.

Based on the available data, the evidence for general use of add-on devices is rather weak and cost–effectiveness has never been well assessed. It might however have a role in helping low-performers to reach the important ADR threshold of 25% [4].

#### Dye-based chromoendoscopy (CE)

A recently updated Cochrane systematic review of 2016 [34] analyzed 7 RCTs (total 2727 patients) that assessed the role of dye-based CE in detecting colorectal lesions outside the setting of polyposis or colitis. Pancolonic CE significantly increased the number of patients with at least one polyp detected (OR 1.87, 95%CI 1.51–2.30) and of those with at least one neoplastic polyp (adenoma or carcinoma) detected (OR 1.53, 95%CI 1.31–1.79). Limitations of the systematic review were the lack of blinding in the RCTs, and the significant heterogeneity observed between the studies. Indeed, quality of evidence was graded as low in this review.

Since the publication of that Cochrane systematic review, two large multicenter RCTs have been published. The first [35], including 1065 patients, showed an increase in the mean adenoma per patient rate (0.79 vs. 0.64, P=0.005), but not in ADR (40.4% vs. 37.5%; OR 1.13, 95%CI 0.87 – 1.48; P=0.35) or sessile serrated lesion detection rate, using routine pancolonic CE compared to HD-WLE.

A recent phase 3 multicenter RCT [36] has evaluated the role of a novel pH- and time-dependent peroral methylene blue formulation (MB-MMX) that is delivered in pills taken during the bowel preparation phase. This RCT enrolled 1205 patients undergoing screening or surveillance colonoscopy and found an increased overall ADR in the MB-MMX group compared to the placebo group (56.29 vs 47.81%; OR 1.46, 95%CI 1.09–1.96). The MB-MMX group showed a higher number of patients with adenomas ≤ 5 mm (37.11% vs. 30.90%; OR 1.36, 95%Cl 1.01 – 1.83).

Details of the abovementioned studies are available in Table 5 s.

We can conclude that chromoendoscopy increases ADR and PDR; however its systematic implementation may be hampered in daily practice because of practical considerations and additional costs. The use of MB-MMX may help to overcome these.

# Detection of colorectal neoplasia in high risk populations with hereditary syndromes

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 2014 statements:

ESGE recommends the routine use of high definition pancolonic chromoendoscopy in patients with known or suspected Lynch syndrome (conventional chromoendoscopy, NBI, i-SCAN) or serrated polyposis syndrome (conventional chromoendoscopy, NBI) (strong recommendation, low quality evidence).

ESGE does not make any recommendation for the use of advanced endoscopic imaging in patients with suspected or known familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) including attenuated and MUTYH-associated polyposis (insufficient evidence to make a recommendation).

#### 2019 statements:

ESGE recommends the routine use of high definition systems in individuals with Lynch syndrome.

Strong recommendation, high quality evidence.

ESGE suggests that the use of virtual chromoendoscopy may be of benefit in individuals with Lynch syndrome undergoing colonoscopy; however its routine use must be balanced against costs, training, and other practical considerations.

Weak recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

ESGE suggests the use of high definition systems and dyebased chromoendoscopy in the diagnosis and surveillance of individuals with serrated polyposis syndrome; however routine use must be balanced against costs, training, and practical considerations.

Weak recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

ESGE does not recommend the systematic use of dyebased nor virtual chromoendoscopy for familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), *MUTYH*-associated polyposis, or hamartomatous polyposis.

Strong recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

#### Lynch syndrome

Lynch syndrome is the most common cause of hereditary colorectal cancer (CRC). It is an autosomal dominant disorder caused by germline mutations in the DNA mismatch repair (MMR) genes (i. e., *MLH1*, *MSH2*, *MSH6*, *PMS2*, and *EpCAM*). An accelerated progression from adenoma to CRC has been described, and often the adenomas display advanced histological features (i. e., high grade dysplasia or a villous component), are frequently flat in morphology, and located in the proximal colon, compared with sporadic adenomas. An intensive surveillance strategy with annual or biennial colonoscopy starting at early ages has reduced both the incidence and mortality associated with CRC. A high detection rate for these aggressive adenomas is especially important to minimize the risk of interval CRC.

In total, seven studies comparing indigo carmine CE with WLE in patients with Lynch syndrome have been published [37-43] (**Table 6s**). Three single-center studies with a small number of patients in a back-to-back design showed that CE was superior to SD-WLE, with an adenoma miss rate ranging from 61% to 74% [37, 38,41]. A recent back-to-back multicenter study, where the second pass was performed by a different endoscopist in order to minimize the second inspection bias, again showed superiority of SD-CE over SD-WLE (ADRs of 41% and 23%, respectively; adenoma miss rate 52%). Nevertheless, the study had no comparator arm, was slightly underpowered ( $\beta$ -risk of 26%) and the withdrawal time during CE was twice that of WLE [39]. All these results are methodologically flawed by the back-to-back design that may lead to an overestimation of the effect of CE over WLE.

There are three trials with a control arm. A study by Stoffel et al. included 54 patients in four centers [40]. After the first pass with SD-WLE, 28 patients were randomly allocated to a second pass with CE and 27 to a second pass with an intensive 20-minute inspection; no significant difference in adenoma miss rate was shown.

Very recently, two well-powered randomized, multicenter, controlled studies with a comparator arm were published. Haanstra et al. showed no differences in neoplasia detection rate between CE and WLE in 246 Lynch patients, either at baseline (27% vs. 30%, respectively; P=0.56) or in the 2-year follow-up colonoscopy (26% vs. 28%, respectively; P=0.81) [42]. This study is limited by the fact that CE was applied only proximal to the splenic flexure and that the study extended over a very long recruitment period (10 years) which may entail important variability in procedure performances and ability for detecting colorectal lesions. Rivero-Sánchez et al. performed a study with only HD endoscopes and high-detector endoscopists in 256 Lynch patients in 14 different hospitals, and showed that ADR was statistically not different between HD-CE and HD-WLE (34.4% [95%CI 26.4%-43.3%] vs. 28.1% [95%CI 21.1%-36.4%], P=0.28) [43]. In both trials, CE was more time-consuming and detected more clinically irrelevant lesions.

In Lynch patients, three single-center back-to-back studies were performed with high definition virtual CE, which appeared to be superior to HD-WLE for polyp detection [44, 45]. East et al. showed in a nonrandomized back-to-back study in 62 Lynch patients that during a second inspection, with NBI, additional adenomas were detected in 17/62 patients (27%). In this study, ADR increased to 26/62 (42%) after both WLE and NBI: 9/62 patients had at least one adenoma detected that was missed during the first inspection with WLE [44]. Bisschops et al. showed

in a randomized crossover study in 61 Lynch patients that the adenoma miss rate was significantly lower when I-SCAN was used, in comparison to HD-WLE (12% vs. 62%) [45]. Both studies were conducted by a single expert endoscopist and in the second study, the ADR was relatively low for HD-WLE inspection (19%).

On the other hand, virtual CE appears to be inferior to dyebased CE in two back-to-back studies. In a German cohort study the incremental yield of CE versus SD-WLE (n = 47) and NBI (n = 62) was assessed, showing a higher detection with CE during second inspection [41]. Very recently, a study comparing NBI to CE in a back-to-back design has been published as an abstract. This multicenter French study, in 138 Lynch patients, showed an adenoma miss rate of 48% for the third generation of HD-NBI devices (Exera III, 190 series) when followed by a second pass with dye-based CE by the same endoscopist. The authors concluded that although NBI colonoscopy is less timeconsuming, it cannot be recommended to replace dye-based CE in Lynch syndrome patients [46].

Finally, one study in 75 patients compared AFI, with the Xillix system (XillixTechnologies Corporation, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada), to WLE in a crossover trial, showing a better detection of adenomas for AFI (92% vs. 68% for WLE) [47].

Details for the most important studies are available in Table 7 s.

In conclusion, evidence suggests a benefit of dye-based CE in Lynch syndrome patients at the expense of longer procedure times. However, most of the studies were performed with standard definition endoscopes, had a small and heterogeneous sample, and a nonrandomized back-to-back design that may have led to a bias in favor of dye-based CE. Recent evidence from two well-powered multicenter trials with a parallel design have shown no differences in ADR between WLE and dye-based CE [42, 43]. This possibly implies that a thorough inspection by high detector endoscopists and using high definition endoscopes might decrease the advantageous effect of dye-based CE in Lynch patients. These two RCTs are the reason for a slight discrepancy between the recommendations in this Guideline and the recently published Guideline on the management of polyposis syndromes [48], that also included dyebased CE as a suggestion. However the new evidence was not available at the time of development of that Guideline. On the other hand, two studies have reported superiority of virtual CE (NBI and I-SCAN) over WLE. Conversely, two other studies have shown that dye-based CE was superior to virtual CE. Most of these studies have methodological limitations such as back-toback design, the second pass being performed by the same expert endoscopist, or there being a low ADR in the first pass.

Taking this into consideration, ESGE recommends at least the use of HD endoscopes in Lynch patients and suggests in addition that, in view of the evidence, advanced imaging techniques such as virtual chromoendoscopy can be useful.

#### Serrated polyposis syndrome (SPS)

Serrated polyposis syndrome (SPS) has emerged as the most frequent colorectal polyposis syndrome. This entity is associated with an increased risk of CRC and is often grouped with the hereditary polyposis syndromes although no underlying gene defect has been identified yet.

Although recent studies show an increase in SPS prevalence [49–51], attributed to major clinical and pathological awareness and better endoscopic diagnostic accuracy [52, 53], SPS remains an underdiagnosed entity [54]. SPS diagnosis depends directly on the capacity for detecting serrated lesions (SLS), which are often easily overlooked due to their imperceptibility [51]. In a fecal immunochemical test (FIT)-based CRC screening program, a reassessment colonoscopy within 1 year after a screening colonoscopy tripled the number of patients diagnosed with SPS. Use of CE, either dye-based or virtual, at reassessment colonoscopy was associated with a higher detection rate of serrated lesions, but not of adenomas [55].

Recently, a multicenter randomized back-to-back study evaluated the usefulness of dye-based CE with indigo carmine for the detection of colonic polyps in SPS patients under surveillance [56]. Patients were randomly assigned to a group: one received two HD-WLE examinations (n=43) and the other received HD-WLE followed by 0.4% indigo carmine CE (n = 43). This study demonstrated a significantly higher additional polyp detection rate in the HD-CE group (0.39, 95%CI 0.35-0.44) than in the HD-WLE group (0.22, 95%CI 0.18 – 0.27, P<0.001). HD-CE detected more serrated lesions than HD-WLE (40% vs. 24%, P=0.001), more serrated lesions proximal to the sigmoid (40% vs. 21%, P=0.001), and more >5-mm serrated lesions proximal to the sigmoid (37% vs. 18%; P=0.013). Over 70% of additional serrated lesions detected by CE were hyperplastic polyps and at least two-thirds of them were located proximal to the sigmoid colon. Detection of adenomas and serrated lesions >10 mm in size did not differ significantly between groups. The additional detection rate for SSP was higher in the HD-CE group (0.29 in HD-CE vs. 0.13 in HD-WL, P=0.059) but not statistically significant. In a multivariate logistic regression analysis, only use of HD-CE was independently associated with an increase in polyp detection throughout the colon.

The role of virtual CE (i.e., NBI) in SPS has been evaluated in two randomized crossover studies. A first single-center study including 22 patients showed that NBI had a lower polyp miss rate than high resolution WLE (10% vs. 36%); however this was not confirmed in a second multicenter study including 52 SPS patients (20% vs. 29%; P=0.065) [57, 58]. The authors explained this contradictory result by the fact that the pilot study was performed by a single endoscopist, at a single institution and with older equipment.

A recent multicenter prospective randomized controlled trial evaluated the usefulness of Endocuff-assisted colonoscopy in SPS surveillance, showing no increase in detection of sessile serrated lesions, adenomas, or polyps overall [59].

Details of the abovementioned studies are available in Table 8s.

Thus, based on the abovementioned single RCT [56], the use of dye-based CE improves polyp detection and could be considered in the surveillance of SPS patients. However, its routine use must be balanced against practical considerations.

### Detection and differentiation of colorectal neoplasia in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)

Patients with long-standing or extensive ulcerative colitis (UC) or Crohn's disease are at an increased risk of developing CRC compared to the average risk population. Accordingly, regular and extensive surveillance colonoscopies are recommended [60, 61]. In this context, advanced endoscopic imaging may be of benefit by (i) increasing the neoplasia detection rate; (ii) improving the differentiation of lesions (colitis-associated neoplasia, sporadic neoplasia, and non-neoplastic lesions); and (iii) reducing the number of unnecessary biopsies.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 2014 statements:

ESGE recommends the routine use of 0.1% methylene blue or 0.1% - 0.5% indigo carmine pancolonic chromoendoscopy with targeted biopsies for neoplasia surveillance in patients with long-standing colitis. In appropriately trained hands, in the situation of quiescent disease activity and adequate bowel preparation, nontargeted four-quadrant biopsies can be abandoned (strong recommendation, high-quality evidence).

ESGE found insufficient evidence to recommend for or against the use of virtual chromoendoscopy or autofluorescence imaging (AFI) for the detection of colorectal neoplasia in inflammatory bowel disease (insufficient evidence to make a recommendation).

#### 2019 statements:

ESGE recommends the routine use of dye-based pancolonic chromoendoscopy or virtual chromoendoscopy with targeted biopsies for neoplasia surveillance in patients with long-standing colitis, in the situation of quiescent disease activity and adequate bowel preparation. Strong recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

ESGE recommends that after proper training in colonoscopy has been obtained, as defined in the ESGE curriculum, in the situation of quiescent disease activity and adequate bowel preparation, nontargeted four-quadrant biopsies can be abandoned.

Strong recommendation, high quality evidence.

ESGE suggests that in the case of high risk patients with a personal history of colonic neoplasia, tubular-appearing colon, strictures, or primary sclerosing cholangitis, chro-moendoscopy-targeted biopsies can be combined with four-quadrant nontargeted biopsies every 10 cm in the colon.

Weak recommendation, low quality evidence.

In general, surveillance of long-standing colitis can only be accurately performed in the absence of disease activity and with an adequate bowel preparation. Indeed, all the imaging studies mentioned below only apply to patients with longstanding colitis undergoing surveillance in the setting of quiescent disease activity and adequate bowel preparation. The use of dye-based or virtual CE is technically cumbersome in the presence of active colitis, multiple inflammatory or post-inflammatory polyps, or poor bowel preparation.

#### SD-WLE or HD-WLE versus dye-based CE

Overall, in eight prospective studies comparing dye-based CE with SD-WLE, the former consistently increased the proportion of patients found with dysplasia by a factor of 2.08 - 3.26 [62 -66]. A meta-analysis showed a pooled incremental yield of CE with random biopsies over SD-WLE with random biopsies for the detection of patients with neoplasia of 7% (95%CI 3.2% -11.3%). Moreover, the difference in proportion of lesions detected by targeted biopsies only was 44% (95%CI 28.6% -59.1%) in favor of dye-based CE [64]. This finding has been confirmed by a new retrospective cohort study including 78 patients with ulcerative colitis [67] in which CE visualized dysplastic lesions in 50 patients, including 34 new lesions not visualized on the index SD-WLE examination. A prospective longitudinal study included 55 patients with ulcerative colitis and identified 44 dysplastic lesions in 24 patients: 6 were detected by random biopsy, 11 by WLE, and 27 by CE [68]. CE and targeted WLE were more likely than random biopsies to detect dysplasia, and CE was superior to SD-WLE (OR 2.4, 95%CI 1.4-4.0). One retrospective cohort study including 2242 colonoscopies demonstrated equal dysplasia detection rates for CE and WLE with random biopsies (11% vs. 10%, P=0.80) [69].

Most recently CE has been evaluated for neoplasia detection and characterization in long-standing colitis in a more real-life setting than that of a randomized controlled trial with only expert endoscopists [70]. In this multicenter prospective cohort study including 350 patients, 41.5% of colonoscopies were performed with standard definition endoscopes. The overall dysplasia miss rate for combined HD-WLE and SD-WLE was 40/94 (57.4% incremental yield for CE). The CE incremental detection yield for dysplasia was comparable between standard definition and high definition (51.5% vs. 52.3%, P=0.30) and statistically not different between expert and nonexpert endoscopists (18.5% vs. 13.1%, P=0.2).

Although this last study did not show a difference between SD-CE and HD-CE detection of neoplasia, the additional value of high definition endoscopy in detecting ulcerative colitis-related neoplasia has become clearer more recently, and seems to indicate that CE increases detection only when standard definition endoscopy is used as opposed to high definition. A recent meta-analysis of 10 studies (494 patients) compared dye-based CE with SD-WLE and HD-WLE [71]. Of these 6 were RCTs (3 on SD-WLE and 3 on HD-WLE). The proportion of patients diagnosed with dysplasia using CE was 17% as compared with 11% for WLE. When analyzed separately, CE was more effective at identifying dysplasia than SD-WLE (RR 2.12, 95%Cl 1.15-3.91); however CE was not more effective as compared with HD-WLE (RR 1.36, 95%Cl, 0.84-2.18). Based on this metaanalysis, non-RCTs demonstrated a benefit of CE over SD-WLE and HD-WLE, whereas RCTs showed a small benefit of CE over SD-WLE, but not over HD-WLE. In addition, two other meta-

analyses comparing different advanced techniques point in the same direction. One recent systematic review comparing CE to other techniques (SD-WLE, HD-WLE, HD-NBI, or HD-I-SCAN), included 10 randomized trials with 1500 participants [72]. CE was associated with higher detection of patients with dysplasia as compared with other techniques. However, subgroup analyses confirmed this effect only in comparison with SD-WLE (RR 2.12, 95%CI 1.15-3.91). These findings have been confirmed by another network meta-analysis including only 8 parallelgroup RCTs with 924 patients [73] and comparing HD-WLE, SD-WLE, SD-CE, HD-CE, and HD-NBI for detection of neoplasia in long-standing colitis. The network analysis did not find any single technique to be statistically superior. CE was probably more effective than SD-WLE for detecting any dysplasia (OR 2.37, 95%CI 0.81 – 6.94). Finally, a recent prospective RCT compared HD-WLE alone (n = 90) with high definition dye-based CE (n = 90), and virtual CE with I-SCAN (n = 90) for detection of neoplastic lesions during IBD surveillance colonoscopy [74]. The HD-WLE neoplasia detection rate (25.5%) was noninferior either to dye-based (24.4%) or to virtual CE (15.5%) for detection of all neoplastic lesions (P = 0.91).

Details of the abovementioned studies with SD endoscopy and HD endoscopy are available in **Tables 9s** and **10s**.

Limitations of dye-based CE in the context of long-standing colitis surveillance need to be mentioned. There is no proof that better detection of neoplasia by CE results in the reduction of CRC mortality or decreased risk of interval CRC. Data on costeffectiveness are also limited; however a reduction in the number of colonoscopies and histological samples could be achieved by risk stratification [75]. One study assessed the cost-effectiveness of CE in comparison with WLE or no endoscopy for CRC surveillance in patients with ulcerative colitis, using a decision-analytic state-transition (Markov) model with a Monte Carlo simulation [76]. CE was found to be more effective and less expensive than WLE at all surveillance intervals. However, compared with no surveillance, CE was cost-effective only at 7-year surveillance intervals, with an incremental costeffectiveness ratio of \$77176. At sensitivity levels of >0.23 for dysplasia detection and cost < \$2200, CE was the most cost-effective strategy, regardless of the level of sensitivity of WLE. The estimated population lifetime risk of developing CRC ranged from 2.5% (annual CE) to 5.9% (CE every 10 years).

#### Virtual CE

Three RCTs compared NBI in all cases with HD-WLE for the detection of neoplasia in long-standing IBD. Regardless of the generation of the NBI device and the level of definition of colonoscopes used, virtual CE did not significantly increase the detection rate of neoplastic lesions as compared with WLE [77 – 79]. However, virtual CE with targeted biopsies alone yielded neoplasia detection rates comparable to WLE with targeted and random four-quadrant biopsies (mean number of biopsies per patient: 0.5-3.5 in NBI with targeted biopsies only, and 24.6-38.3 in WLE with targeted and random biopsies).

Two RCTs compared a HD-NBI system with high definition dye-based CE, both without nontargeted biopsies, for the detection of neoplasia in long-standing UC. The first, singlecenter, crossover RCT comparing neoplasia miss rates with HD-NBI and high definition dye-based CE [80], showed a considerably higher miss rate of neoplastic lesions with HD-NBI as compared with high definition dye-based CE (31.8% and 13.6%, respectively). However, this study was not adequately powered to show a statistical significance. The second was a recent multicenter RCT that compared HD-CE with HD-NBI in 131 patients with UC in a 1:1 randomization [81]. Mean numbers of neoplastic lesions per colonoscopy were 0.47 for CE and 0.32 for NBI (P=0.992). The neoplasia detection rate did not differ significantly between CE and NBI (21.2% vs. 21.5%, respectively). The per-lesion neoplasia detection was 17.4% for CE and 16.3% for NBI (P=0.793) and the total procedural time was on average 7 minutes shorter in the NBI group.

One study compared I-SCAN as virtual CE with HD-WLE and dye-based HD-CE. There was no significant difference between three groups of patients with neoplasia detection (15.5%, 25.5%, and 24.4% respectively). Although 10% noninferiority was just passed statistically, caution should be exercised as the difference might still be clinically relevant [74]. A recent meta-analysis has highlighted the potential role of virtual CE for dysplasia detection in IBD. For the comparison of NBI versus WLE, 4 studies with 305 patients were included. The analysis showed no differences in per-patient neoplasia detection (OR 0.97, 95%CI 0.62 - 1.53) and per-neoplastic lesion detection (OR 0.94, 95%CI 0.63 - 1.4) [82].

Two studies (one of them an RCT) compared HD-WLE with AFI for the detection of colorectal neoplasia in IBD [79, 83]. A pilot study [83] showed that protruding lesions with a low AFI signal were significantly more likely to be neoplastic than lesions with a high AFI signal (45.0% vs. 13.3%, respectively; P = 0.043). In the RCT, the miss rate for neoplastic lesions was statistically significantly lower with AFI compared with HD-WLE (0% vs. 50%, P = 0.036) [79]. It should be noted that inadequate bowel preparation and active inflammation interrupt tissue AFI, resulting in discoloration on AFI and resembling neoplasia. Another recent RCT confirmed that AFI did not meet criteria for proceeding to a large noninferiority trial and that the existing AFI imaging technology should not be further investigated as an alternative dysplasia surveillance method [84].

Details of the abovementioned studies are available in **Table 11 s**.

#### **Role of biopsies**

A limited diagnostic yield of four-quadrant biopsies in comparison to targeted biopsies has already been shown in the previous Guideline. A pooled sensitivity for the detection of neoplasia with CE-targeted biopsies only was 86% (range 71%– 100%) [37,62,63,65,66,85–87]. The median numbers of targeted and targeted plus random biopsies were 1.3 (range 0.28-14.2) and 34.3 (range 7.0-42.2), respectively. Therefore, the number of biopsies needed during dye-based CE surveillance of long-standing colitis can be significantly reduced if targeted biopsies are taken. The yield and clinical impact of random biopsies were also assessed in a retrospective analysis of 1010 colonoscopies [88]. Overall, 11 722 random biopsies (median 29) were taken in 466 surveillance colonoscopies. Neopla-

sia was detected in 88 colonoscopies: in 75 (85%) by targeted biopsies, in 8 (9.1%) by both targeted and random biopsies, and in 5 (5.7%) by random biopsies in 4 patients (7.5% of 53 with detected neoplasia). In 94% of colonoscopies, neoplasia was macroscopically visible. An RCT comparing the rates of neoplasia detection by targeted versus random biopsies in 246 patients with UC found the mean number of biopsies containing neoplastic tissue per colonoscopy to be 0.211 (24 of 114) in the target group and 0.168 (18 of 107) in the random group [89]. Neoplasia was detected in 11.4% of patients in the target group and 9.3% of patients in the random group (P=0.617). Another, nonrandomized study evaluating different surveillance strategies in 454 IBD patients showed a neoplasia detection rate of 8.2% in the random biopsy group compared to 19.1 % in the targeted biopsy group [90]. Recently, a study with 1000 colonoscopies showed neoplasia in 82 patients diagnosed by targeted biopsies or removed lesions [91]. Dysplasia was detected by random biopsies in 7 patients and in 12 additional patients by random biopsies only. The yield of neoplasia by random biopsies only was 0.2% per-biopsy, 1.2% per-colonoscopy and 12.8% per-patient with neoplasia. Dysplasia detected by random biopsies was associated with a personal history of neoplasia, a tubular appearing colon, or the presence of primary sclerosing cholangitis. It may therefore be careful and advisable to combine random biopsies with dye-based or virtual CE-targeted biopsies in these high risk patients. In addition, since it may be difficult to locate again small lesions with dysplasia, it may be advisable in the case of lesions < 10 mm to resect the lesion entirely to facilitate patient management.

Details of the abovementioned studies are available in Table 12 s.

#### Conclusions: detection of neoplasia in IBD

In conclusion, the literature on advanced imaging in the detection of colitis-associated neoplasia is large but also heterogeneous as illustrated by the several meta-analyses. Although several meta-analyses have been performed on the same literature and sometimes seem to contradict each other, it seems reasonable to accept the additional value of dye-based CE. Recent evidence with HD endoscopes point to the fact that virtual chromoendoscopy also may be equally effective. Although the Spanish real-life study [70] did not show a clear difference in dysplasia detection between expert and nonexpert (18.5% vs. 13.1%, P=0.20) and did not show a significant learning curve for CE, it is conceivable that lesion recognition by virtual CE is facilitated by previous dye-based CE. In fact, all investigators involved in the virtual CE trials had previous experience with dyebased CE. In standard risk patients, the evidence clearly points to abandoning nontargeted random biopsies. The additional value of using virtual CE lies in the fact that it is time-saving (7 minutes less on average than dye-based CE [81]) and may facilitate surveillance in cases of poorer bowel preparation.

#### Neoplastic versus non-neoplastic lesions in IBD

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### 2014 statement:

ESGE recommends taking biopsies from flat mucosa surrounding neoplastic lesions and taking biopsies from or resecting all suspicious lesions identified at neoplasia surveillance in long-standing colitis, because there is no evidence that nonmagnified conventional or virtual chromoendoscopy can reliably differentiate between colitis-associated and sporadic neoplasia or between neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions (strong recommendation, low to moderate quality evidence).

#### 2019 statement:

ESGE recommends using advanced imaging to assess the borders of lesions in previously colitic mucosa, to assess resectability. If optical diagnosis is used for lesion characterization of visible lesions, ESGE recommends that the suspicion of neoplasia should be confirmed by classical histology in the case of colitis surveillance. Strong recommendation, low quality evidence.

Lesions can be well delineated with high definition endoscopes and advanced imaging techniques. In an RCT comparing dye-based HD-CE with HD-NBI, no dysplasia was found in biopsies taken next to a visible lesion, even when the lesion was flat [81]. This means that if lesions can be well delineated, then resectability can be defined. However the proportion of neoplasia per suspicious lesion detected during colitis surveillance is in general rather low, at around 15% [70,81]. This means that the majority of lesions found are regenerative changes and non-neoplastic. Especially when such lesions are larger, resection may harbor unnecessary risks. The question therefore arises whether optical diagnosis could be used to differentiate neoplastic from non-neoplastic lesions.

Modified pit pattern classifications have been used in three dye-based CE studies to differentiate between neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions in long-standing IBD [37, 62, 65], showing high sensitivity and specificity (93% - 100% and 88% - 97%, respectively). Kawasaki et al. evaluated the efficacy of the Japanese magnifying colonoscopy classification (Japan NBI Expert Team [JNET]) for UC-associated neoplasia [92]. Lesions of JNET types IIA, IIB, and III correlated with the histopathological findings of low grade dysplasia (LGD), high grade dysplasia (HGD)/ superficially submucosally invasive cancer, and massively submucosally invasive (mSM) carcinoma, respectively. Lesions of Kudo types III/IV, VI low irregularity, and VI high irregularity/ VN, by pit pattern classification, correlated with the histopathological findings of LGD/HGD, HGD, and mSM carcinoma, respectively. One more recent study evaluated the endoscopic features of HGD in 62 patients with UC [93]. HGD imaged with CE and magnifying endoscopy was frequently associated with a flat/superficial elevated area and red color. However, the use of magnifying endoscopes is still not widespread, and total procedure times were on average 9–11 minutes longer. Recently, a Spanish multicenter trial showed that predictive factors for neoplasia for dye-based CE are Kudo pit pattern III-V, sessile morphology, loss of innominate lines, and location in the right colon [70].

Previous studies evaluating the role of nonmagnified NBI in differentiating neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions in patients with long-standing colitis suggested that a tortuous pit pattern and a high vascular pattern intensity may help to distinguish neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions in longstanding IBD [94, 95]. However, in two RCTS, the sensitivity and specificity of NBI in predicting histology were insufficient [79,96]. A more recent multicenter interobserver study [97] showed median sensitivity, specificity, negative predictive value, and positive predictive value for diagnosing neoplasia, based on the presence of pit pattern other than I or II, of 77%, 68%, 88%, and 46%, respectively. Diagnostic accuracy was significantly higher when a diagnosis was made with a high level of confidence (77% vs. 21%, P<0.001). The agreement for differentiation between non-neoplastic patterns (I, II) and neoplastic patterns (IIIL, IIIS, IV, or V) was moderate and significantly better for NBI in comparison with HD-CE ( $\kappa$  = 0.653 vs. 0.495, P<0.001). Another multicenter RCT compared AFI with CE for dysplasia detection in 210 patients with long-standing UC [98]. Overall sensitivity for real-time prediction of dysplasia was 76.9% for endoscopic trimodal imaging (ETMI; namely, AFI, NBE, and WLE) and 81.6% for CE. Overall negative predictive values were 96.9% for ETMI and 94.7% for CE. A total of 205 lesions in UC were analyzed with virtual CE (flexible spectral imaging color enhancement [FICE]) in another study, by Cassinotti et al. [99]. Sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative likelihood ratios with the Kudo classification were 91%, 76%, 3.8, and 0.12, respectively. Recently Aladrén et al. aimed to analyze results of a CE screening program in Spain and to assess the possibility of identifying low risk dysplastic lesions by their endoscopic appearance, in order to avoid histological analysis [100]. Correlation between dysplasia and Kudo pit pattern predictors of dysplasia (Kudo≥III) was low while Kudo I and II lesions were correctly identified with a high negative predictive value of 92%, even by nonexperts. Recently a group of international experts has developed and validated a new classification, the Frankfurt Advanced Chromoendoscopic IBD LEsions system (FACILE), using images from all endoscopic platforms, that might improve performance in both trainees and experienced operators. The four characteristics that predicted neoplastic lesions were morphology of nonpolypoid/polypoid lesion, irregular surface pattern, vessel architecture, and signs of inflammation within the lesion, without using Kudo pit pattern [101].

Details of most of the abovementioned studies are available in **Table 13 s**.

Based on these studies we can say that to a certain extent optical diagnosis may help to identify typically non-neoplastic lesions with type I or II pit pattern, but that the overall diagnostic accuracy, even in expert hands, is insufficient. Resection of small lesions <10 mm with a neoplastic pit pattern is probably safe and may be more practical for determining patient management in the case that neoplasia is found. However in larger lesions, with sessile morphology or in the right colon [70], a biopsy should always be taken to confirm or rule out dysplasia.

# Differentiation between neoplastic and non-neoplastic small colorectal polyps

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### 2014 statement:

ESGE suggests that virtual chromoendoscopy (NBI, FICE, i-SCAN) and conventional [dye-based] chromoendoscopy can be used, under strictly controlled conditions, for realtime optical diagnosis of diminutive ( $\leq 5$  mm) colorectal polyps to replace histopathological diagnosis. The optical diagnosis has to be reported using validated scales, must be adequately photodocumented, and can be performed only by experienced endoscopists who are adequately trained and audited (weak recommendation, high quality evidence).

#### 2019 statement:

ESGE suggests that virtual chromoendoscopy and dyebased chromoendoscopy can be used, under strictly controlled conditions, for real-time optical diagnosis of diminutive (≤5mm) colorectal polyps to replace histopathological diagnosis. The optical diagnosis should be reported using a validated scale, must be adequately photodocumented, and can be performed only by experienced endoscopists who are adequately trained, as defined in the ESGE curriculum, and audited. Weak recommendation, high guality evidence.

The vast majority of polyps detected during colonoscopy are diminutive (1-5mm) or small (6-9mm) in size. Diminutive polyps represent approximately 60% of all polyps detected and the risk of advanced pathology or cancer incurred by these lesions is very low [102-104]. However, based on current management protocols, all removed polyps, including diminutive polyps, are submitted for histological analysis. This is expensive and generates a large burden of work for pathologists and histopathology departments. Instead of sending diminutive polyps for histological evaluation, a real-time optical diagnosis by the endoscopist would allow diminutive polyps to be discarded after resection, and non-neoplastic polyps located in the rectum and sigmoid to be left in situ. Furthermore, optical diagnosis could be used to determine the interval for the next surveillance colonoscopy. The primary goal of this strategy is to reduce the number of polyps submitted for histopathological evaluation, which may lead to cost savings.

The optical diagnosis strategy also raises several concerns. First, when diminutive polyps are discarded, advanced histological features (high grade dysplasia, tubulovillous or villous morphology) or invasive growth, i.e., a cancer, are not diagnosed as such. This could lead to a setting of suboptimal treatment and/or inappropriate surveillance intervals. However, risk estimates for advanced pathology within diminutive polyps are low, ranging from 0.1% to 12%, with most estimates at the lower end of this range [105-134] (Table 14s). The rate of cancer in diminutive polyps is even lower, although not completely negligible, ranging from 0% to 0.6%, with most estimates again at the lower end of the range. To further reduce the risk of missing cancer, it is recommended that an optical diagnosis should be avoided in suspicious lesions (e.g. depressed lesions, Paris classification 0-IIc) [135]. The question of whether undiagnosed advanced histological features within diminutive polyps would lead to inappropriate surveillance recommendations was recently addressed in a large study [103]. In this study, data of 12 cohorts (5 FIT cohorts and 7 colonoscopy screening cohorts) were combined, resulting in a total cohort of 64344 individuals with 51510 diminutive polyps. Advanced histological features were observed in 5.6% and cancer in 0.07% of all diminutive polyps. The risk of finding metachronous advanced neoplasia did not significantly differ between patients with 1 or 2 nonadvanced diminutive or small adenomas (low risk patients) compared with patients with diminutive polyps with advanced histological features detected at baseline colonoscopy. This indicates that diminutive polyps with advanced histological features do not increase the risk for metachronous advanced neoplasia and therefore seem not to interfere with a correct surveillance recommendation.

A second concern is that an incorrect optical diagnosis could result in a patient being incorrectly considered at low risk for metachronous advanced neoplasia and/or that neoplastic lesions in the rectosigmoid are left in situ. For this reason, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) published the Preservation and Incorporation of Valuable Endoscopic Innovation (PIVI) document in which they attempted to set standards against which a technology should be assessed in order to be deemed suitable for use. A policy of resect and discard should have ≥90% agreement in assignment of postpolypectomy surveillance intervals when compared with decisions based on pathology assessment, and a policy of leaving suspected non-neoplastic polyps in place should have a  $\geq 90\%$ negative predictive value when used with high confidence [136]. A meta-analysis published in 2015 [137], including 20 NBI studies [138-157], 7 I-SCAN studies [155, 158-163] and 8 FICE studies [164-171], all in vivo and published between 2008 and 2014, showed that the pooled NPV of NBI for adenomatous polyp histology was 91% (95%CI 88%-94%). The agreement in assignment of post-polypectomy surveillance intervals with NBI was 89% (95%CI 85% – 93%). Importantly, subgroup analysis indicated that the pooled NPV and the surveillance agreement was only greater than 90% for academic medical centers, for experts, and when the optical assessment was made with high confidence. Comparable results were observed for I-SCAN. For FICE the pooled NPV in this meta-analysis was 80% (95%CI 76% – 85%). Dye-based CE shows similar accuracy in differentiating between neoplastic and non-neoplastic polyps, but because of inconvenience and costs associated with the use of dyes it is unlikely that this technique will be adopted in routine clinical practice [164, 166]. From 2015 onwards, real-time differentiation studies, performed in academic centers as well as in community hospitals, have shown conflicting results in achieving the above mentioned PIVI thresholds [125, 172-179]. This variability in performance may be explained by a lack of rigorous training and/or performance measurement. However, in those studies in which the endoscopists were adequately trained prior to the study, PIVI thresholds were also not always met [125, 174, 179]. In conclusion, performance levels of endoscopists in correctly predicting histology of diminutive polyps remain highly variable, underlining the necessity of a training, auditing, and performance monitoring system when an optical diagnosis strategy is implemented. The possible effect on optical diagnosis of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the future is also unclear at this stage (see section on Role of artificial intelligence). Details of the abovementioned studies are available in Table 15 s.

During real-time optical diagnosis, validated optical diagnostic scales, such as the widely used NBI International Colorectal Endoscopic (NICE) classification or the Workgroup serrAted polypS and Polyposis (WASP) classification (which also includes sessile serrated lesions [SSLs]) should be used to improve diagnostic accuracy [145, 174, 180]. No universal training system for differentiation between neoplastic and non-neoplastic colorectal polyps has been established yet. Several teaching modules, mostly computer-based, have been studied and some of them are showing promising results with respect to improving interobserver agreement; however in a substantial number of studies the interobserver agreement was still moderate after training [180 – 188] (**Table 16 s**).

There are currently no data to suggest what kind of documentation is needed for implementation of an optical diagnosis strategy. As in this situation an endoscopic picture, rather than a histology slide, becomes the record of a diminutive polyp, it seems logical that those images are stored. At least one or two images must be stored as evidence of adenoma detection and also for review of the optical diagnosis [136]. However, this strategy poses significant challenges at present, especially with regard to logistics and the available disk space on servers in endoscopy units.

Implementation of an optical diagnosis strategy would be cost-effective, with good evidence from large modeling studies to support this [157, 170, 189 – 193]. However, concerns associated with the data used for model analysis include: (i) the different CRC screening programs used in these models may not be simply extrapolated to the various screening programs in use in Europe; (ii) the assumptions are derived from studies that have mainly been performed by experts; and (iii) the costs for implementation of the resect-and-discard policy (training for and photodocumentation of real-time diagnosis) are not included. It is therefore unclear whether the results of these modeling studies can be reproduced in real-life daily practice, and this should be further investigated in a real-life (multicenter) setting.

# Role of advanced imaging in treatment of colorectal neoplasia

#### Prediction of deep submucosal invasion

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### 2014 statement:

ESGE suggests the use of conventional or virtual (NBI) magnified chromoendoscopy to predict the risk of invasive cancer and deep submucosal invasion in lesions such as those with a depressed component (0-IIc according to the Paris classification) or nongranular or mixed-type laterally spreading tumors (weak recommendation, moderate quality evidence).

#### 2019 statement:

ESGE recommends the use of high definition white light endoscopy in combination with (virtual) chromoendoscopy to predict the presence and depth of any submucosal invasion in nonpedunculated colorectal polyps prior to any treatment.

Strong recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

When endoscopic resection is considered for colonic lesions, it is important to assess the lesion accurately and attempt to predict the presence and depth of submucosal invasion, as this will aid in determining the correct treatment strategy (piecemeal endoscopic resection, e.g. endoscopic mucosal resection [EMR]; en bloc endoscopic resection, e.g. endoscopic submucosal dissection [ESD] or use of full thickness resection device [FTRD], or surgery). White light characterization and virtual and dye-based CE with and without magnification help to predict the presence and depth of submucosal invasion.

Morphology, size, location, and recognition of gross morphological features are the first steps in the characterization of colonic lesions with WLE, and may help to raise suspicion of malignancy. Submucosal invasion has been shown elsewhere to be more frequent in certain morphologies (laterally spreading tumor of nongranular type [LST-NG] pseudodepressed lesions, and also sessile polyps), increased size, and rectal location [194, 195]. A large prospective study of colonic lesions showed that the risk of 'covert' submucosal invasion was predicted by rectosigmoid location (odds ratio 1.87, P=0.01), combined Paris classification, surface morphology (odds ratios, 3.96-22.5), and increasing size (odds ratio 1.16/10mm, P=0.012) [196]. In particular, rectosigmoid Paris O-Is and O-IIa+Is nongranular lesions had a high risk of submucosal invasion whereas proximally located Paris 0-Is or 0-IIa granular lesions had a very low risk. In addition, the nonlifting sign, chicken skin sign, edge retraction, depressed areas, folds convergence, induration, ulceration, polyp over polyp, redness, tumor fullness, and spontaneous bleeding have been reported to be associated with submucosal invasion, and also in lesions <10 mm, but none of them was definitive [194, 197]. A systematic review and metaanalysis showed that sensitivities of these features for predicting deep submucosal invasion ranged from 18% to 68% and specificities from 80% to 98%. [198] The recognition of demarcated areas (clearly visualized region between two morphological areas of a lesion, e.g., a depression, large nodule, or reddened area) is also a key point in identifying zones that deserve close observation, because they are associated with an increased risk of submucosal invasion [199].

On closer inspection of the target colonic lesion, detection and characterization of a demarcated area where a regular neoplastic pit/vascular pattern (e.g. Kudo IV, NICE II, Sano II) becomes disordered (e.g. Kudo V, NICE III, Sano III), often associated with a visible depression (Paris classification 0-IIa+c) due to a fibrotic reaction in the submucosa, is a specific marker of submucosal invasion within colonic lesions.

There are only three prospective studies evaluating in vivo CE without magnification. The OPTICAL study [200] prospectively assessed 343 large nonpedunculated colorectal polyps with NBI without magnification, using the Hiroshima classification. A total of 47 cancers were identified (36 T1 and 11  $\ge$  T2), of which only 11 contained superficial sm1 invasion (23.4% of all malignant polyps). Sensitivity and specificity for optical diagnosis of T1 CRC were 78.7% (95%CI 64.3%–89.3%) and 94.2% (95%CI 90.9%–96.6%), respectively; corresponding values for optical diagnosis of endoscopically unresectable lesions (i.e.,  $\ge$  T1 CRC with deep invasion) were 63.3% (95%CI 43.9%–80.1%) and 99.0% (95%CI 97.1%–100.0%), respectively. Obvious advanced cancers were excluded, but 11 out of 47 were still advanced cancers (7 T2 and 4 T3), which might have increased the sensitivity.

In a Spanish multicenter prospective study including 2123 lesions > 10 mm using NBI and without magnification, the NICE classification system identified lesions with deep invasion with sensitivity 58.4% (95%CI 47.5%-68.8%) and specificity 96.4% (95%CI 95.5%-97.2%) [194]. In addition, a conditional inference tree that included all variables found that the NICE classification was the most accurate for identification of lesions with deep invasion (P<0.001). However, pedunculated morphology (P<0.007), ulceration (P=0.026), depressed areas (P<0.001), or nodular-mixed type (P<0.001) also affected accuracy of identification (> Fig. 1). Therefore, virtual CE without magnification is useful for predicting deep submucosal invasion when a nonpedunculated NICE type 3 polyp is ulcerated and is useful to rule it out when a NICE type 1 or 2 lesion has no depressed area nor nodules. Results were comparable for identifying lesions that were endoscopically not resectable for oncological reasons (with any risk factor for lymph node metastasis). This is consistent with previous Japanese studies showing a higher prevalence of deep submucosal invasion in demarcated areas [199]. Therefore, magnification is especially needed in nonulcerated NICE type 3 lesions or when a demarcated area (nodule, redness, or depression) is present in a NICE type 1 or 2 lesion.

There is only one study assessing the Kudo pit pattern for predicting submucosal invasion without magnification [196]. Sensitivity and specificity of the Kudo pit pattern type V were 40.4% (95%CI33.3% – 47.8%) and 97.5% (95%CI96.7% – 98.1%) in 2106 laterally spreading lesions > 20 mm.

In Japan, magnified NBI CE has been shown to have a sensitivity of 77 % (95 %CI 68 % – 84 %) and a specificity of 98 % (95 %CI



**Fig.1** Risk of submucosal invasion based on the Narrow-band imaging International Colorectal Endoscopic (NICE) classification and polyp morphology to determine treatment options [194].

95% - 99%) in 13 studies using different classification systems [198]. Recently, type 3 JNET classification has shown a sensitivity of 55.4% (95%Cl 48.7% - 62.1%) and a specificity of 99.8% (95%Cl 99.6% - 100.0%) in retrospective assessment of 2933 images [201]. Studies with similar results showed that JNET type 2B included a wide variety of colorectal tumors ranging from low grade dysplasia to deep submucosal lesions and therefore the sensitivity of JNET type 3 is low [202 - 207]. The authors suggest that direct observation of the Kudo pit pattern with crystal violet should be performed in JNET 2B lesions.

The abovementioned systematic review and meta-analysis showed a sensitivity of 81% (95%Cl 75% – 87%) and a specificity of 95% (95%Cl 89% – 97%) for magnified CE in 17 studies [198]. All the studies were performed in Asian countries, mainly Japan, and with crystal violet. A retrospective study conducted in Brazil by a single experienced endoscopist included 123 lesions with suspicion of submucosal invasion raised by another endoscopist. Magnifying CE with pit pattern classification had 73.3% sensitivity and 100% specificity [208].

Details of the most important of the abovementioned studies are available in **Table 17 s**.

In summary: WLE may raise suspicion for submucosal invasion; virtual CE without magnification is useful to rule out the presence of deep submucosal invasion when no demarcated area is present; and magnifying CE may allow the differentiation between deep and superficial submucosal invasion in highly suspicious lesions, such as those containing demarcated areas. Based on the recent evidence, a 4-step strategy incorporating the different roles of WLE, nonmagnifying virtual CE, magnifying virtual CE, and magnifying dye-based CE in predicting submucosal invasion has been proposed, but it should first be validated [209]. In the near future, it seems likely that AI, directed to a demarcated area by a human observer, will significantly improve both sensitivity and specificity (see section on **Role of artificial intelligence**).

#### Defining the borders of colorectal lesions

#### **RECOMMENDATION** 2014 and 2019 statement:

ESGE recommends the use of virtual or conventional [dye-based] chromoendoscopy to define the margins of large nonpolypoid or otherwise indistinct lesions before or during endoscopic resection.

Strong recommendation, very low quality evidence.

No new evidence has become available regarding this statement. Because of the better contrast, the entire extent of the lesion can be better appreciated with additional imaging techniques to safeguard a complete resection of a lesion. Especially in IBD-related neoplasia, demarcation of a lesion can be challenging and is facilitated by CE.

#### Follow-up after endoscopic resection of lesions

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 2014 statement:

ESGE recommends the use of virtual or conventional chromoendoscopy in addition to white light endoscopy for the detection of residual neoplasia at a piecemeal polypectomy scar site (strong recommendation, low quality evidence).

#### 2019 statements:

ESGE recommends the use of virtual or dye-based chromoendoscopy in addition to white-light endoscopy for the detection of residual neoplasia at a piecemeal polypectomy scar site.

Strong recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

ESGE suggests that routine biopsy of post-polypectomy scars can be abandoned providing that a standardized imaging protocol with virtual chromoendoscopy is used by a sufficiently trained endoscopist.

Weak recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

Endoscopic piecemeal polypectomy has emerged as a safe and effective method of removing large sessile or nonpolypoid colorectal lesions. However, because of a relatively high rate of adenoma recurrence, estimated at 15% - 30%, [210, 211], it is recommended to perform a surveillance colonoscopy at 4-6 months after endoscopic resection [212, 213].

It has been shown that using HD-WLE alone allows the identification of 69% to 83% of recurrences revealed by performing targeted and random biopsies [141, 214]. Recent studies have provided new evidence for the efficacy of advanced endoscopic imaging in the detection of post-polypectomy/post-EMR scars and residual/recurrent colorectal neoplasia. A prospective single-center study, which analyzed 183 scars after a median of 3.9 months from the endoscopic polypectomy, showed a significantly higher sensitivity for endoscopic residual neoplasia detection for a combination of HD-WLE and NBI compared with HD-WLE alone (93.3% vs. 66.7%). The NPV for the combination of HD-WLE and NBI was 98.6% (95%CI 95.1%-99.8%) [215]. Another prospective multicenter study, which evaluated 255 colorectal scars after a median of 7 months following a colorectal piecemeal EMR, showed a NPV of 100% (95%CI 98% -100%) and sensitivity of 100% (95%CI 93%-100%) for NBI with near-focus imaging [216]. However, slightly lower values were observed in a study of 112 scars, which showed that the accuracy of NBI for the detection of residual neoplasia at the resection site was 86.8%, compared to 81.6% for WLE and (P= 0.15) [217]. This study has however several limitations, including the single operator, high recurrence rates, and non-blinded pathologist. Another study, comparing the combination of HD-WLE and virtual or dye-based CE against histological verification in recurrence assessment, revealed biopsy evidence of residual/recurrent lesions in 16 of 228 macroscopically inconspicuous polypectomy scars (7%) [218]. This study had, however, very high rates of recurrence (31.7%) and used argon plasma coagulation to complete or ascertain completeness of resection in 50% of patients. The high sensitivity and NPV (93 %–100%) of HD-WLE combined with virtual CE in identifying residual and/or recurrent colorectal neoplasia justifies abandoning biopsy of macroscopically normal EMR or piecemeal polypectomy scars.

# Role of artificial intelligence in detection and characterization of colorectal polyps

#### **RECOMMENDATION** 2019 statement:

ESGE suggests the possible incorporation of computeraided diagnosis (detection and characterization of lesions) into colonoscopy, if acceptable and reproducible accuracy for colorectal neoplasia is demonstrated in high quality multicenter in vivo clinical studies. Possible significant risks with implementation, specifically endoscopist deskilling and over-reliance on artificial intelligence (AI), unrepresentative training datasets, and hacking, need be considered.\*

Weak recommendation, low quality evidence.

Computer-aided diagnosis in medical imaging has been revolutionized by the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) "deep learning" based on neural networks that simulate to some degree the workings of the human brain. It seems likely that such systems will have a major place in clinical practice in the future, with more than 20 systems, in particular in radiology and pathology, having received regulatory approval [219]. Video endoscopy provides a further opportunity for the application of AI systems to support and enhance clinical practice and endoscopist performance. However despite the potential benefits, there are also risks associated with the clinical adoption of AI.

#### Endoscopist – Al interaction

Al can support clinicians in endoscopy in a number of ways. We consider below two major scenarios for colonoscopy, looking at lesion detection and lesion characterization; however the endoscopist can interact with computer-aided diagnosis systems in different ways. This interaction can be active, where we find a polyp and ask the Al system to confirm our diagnosis as a "second reader," or passive, where Al is running continuously in the background, for example for polyp detection, providing a "concurrent read" alongside the endoscopist. There may be situations where Al acts completely autonomously to make a decision without any endoscopist input, and it is unknown how the Al output is determined [220] (▶ Fig. 2). An expert group set up by the European Commission has recently proposed that algorithms' "black boxes" should be deconvoluted before they can be used for patient care [221]. The levels of

<sup>\*</sup> Note: The field of AI is changing very rapidly and it is likely this statement may need to be modified as new data emerge. ESGE plans an addendum to this section of the Guideline in the near future.



endoscopist–AI interaction have similarities to self-driving cars. For example, humans can monitor the environment but can be aided by automated speed control and braking; self-driving may also allow the AI system to monitor the environment, with limited human input, or even to be fully autonomous. However it seems unlikely that fully autonomous "black box" AI will feature widely in medicine [219].

## Diagnostic performance of AI in colonic polyp detection

Substantial variation exists among endoscopists in terms of polyp detection and effectiveness in preventing CRC with colonoscopy [4, 11]. This variability has been attributed to many factors, but a significant cause seems to be that potentially detectable polyps are missed [179, 222 – 225]. The limitations of human visual perception and other human factors, such as fatigue, distraction, and level of alertness during examination, increase such recognition errors, and their mitigation may be the key to improving polyp detection and further reduction in CRC mortality. Computer-aided detection (CAD) could address these limitations [226] Recent advances in AI, deep learning, and computer vision have shown potential for assisting polyp detection during colonoscopy.

Preliminary studies of deep learning-based CAD systems have reported sensitivities from 70% to 90% and specificities from 60% to 90% for detecting polyps [227 - 232]. There are insufficient data to establish whether there is effective detection of sessile serrated or relatively flat and depressed lesions (Paris 0-II).

Although CAD could be useful for polyp detection in clinical practice [228], some limitations remain. A major drawback of current CAD systems is the relatively large number of false-positive detections, which could adversely affect the application of CAD in clinical practice. A large rate of false positives is likely to confound the endoscopist's task of image interpretation and reduce the efficiency of colonoscopy. In addition,

endoscopists may lose confidence in CAD as a useful tool. The speed of CAD for image analysis and output presentation may also be an issue. Fast processing times are required for image analysis and on-screen labeling, so that the endoscopist is alerted in real time to the presence of a polyp.

Details of the more important of the abovementioned studies are available in **Table 18 s**.

## Diagnostic performance of AI in polyp characterization

Al for characterization of colorectal lesions might have potential advantages in: (i) improving the endoscopist's learning phase; (ii) predicting neoplastic and non-neoplastic tissue (e.g. to support a resect-and-discard strategy); and (iii) guiding endoscopic therapy (e.g. by prediction of submucosal infiltration). So far, no randomized controlled trials have assessed this rapidly emerging technology.

Specifically, no data are yet available on the effect of AI on the learning curve of endoscopists. Regarding prediction of adenomatous and hyperplastic polyp histology, recent data have highlighted that AI based on deep learning models can accurately predict polyp histology with sensitivities and NPVs exceeding 90% [233,234]. Similar results have also been shown for AI based on traditional machine learning [235,236]. AI based on machine learning has also been evaluated for predicting the need for additional surgery after endoscopic resection of T1 colorectal cancer; it was found that it could significantly reduce unnecessary additional surgery [237]. Finally AI based on a deep learning model has been used to assist in diagnosis of submucosal CRC showing an accuracy of 81% [238,239].

Beyond colonic polyps there may be a role for AI in scoring inflammation in IBD, with preliminary data supporting distinction between Mayo 0-1 levels of inflammation and higher Mayo 2-3 levels (area under receiver operating characteristic [AUROC] 0.98) [240]. In addition, AI may potentially help in au-

tomatically registering quality indicators for colonoscopy (withdrawal time, cecal intubation, bowel preparation).

Details of the most important of the abovementioned studies are available in **Table 19s**.

The role of add-on standalone systems versus AI that is integrated into commercially available endoscopy systems remains unclear. However either approach seems to have significant potential to enhance practice and facilitate optical diagnosis or resect-and-discard strategies [220].

#### Risks of AI in clinical practice

Whilst many previous publications have exclusively mentioned the strengths and advantages of the use of AI in medicine, there are potential drawbacks to using AI in colonoscopy. In seven prospective studies on AI in colonoscopy [231,235,241–245], none addressed the downsides of AI as one of the main outcome measures, except for assessment of the time required for using AI; results varied from an increase of 35–47 seconds per polyp assessed with AI [235] to no additional withdrawal time [231].

Outside the field of colonoscopy, recent review articles have warned of unintended consequences that possibly arise from the use of AI in health care [219, 246], namely over-reliance on AI, deskilling, biased datasets for machine learning, and the risk of hacking, all of which seem to be applicable to AI in colonoscopy. In the short term, endoscopists' diagnoses can be affected by incorrect AI predictions. Some previous studies on decision support systems for mammography [247] and electrocardiography [248] demonstrated this negative effect in practice. According to these studies, experienced radiologists and residents, respectively, tended to adopt wrong decisions when they were given an incorrect AI prediction.

The problem of biased data for machine learning should be addressed when AI is widely implemented into colonoscopy practice. Currently, no colonoscopy AI systems have used learning data from different countries, although the status of colonic mucosa, morphologic pattern of polyps, and quality of bowel preparation may differ significantly among countries. Similarly, differences in endoscopic technology among regions of the world (e.g. between the Olympus Lucera Elite and the Exera III) or between endoscopy manufacturers may significantly affect AI performance if the training sets had not included a full range of data. In this regard, international validation should be required before global use of the developed AI. Small, unrepresentative data sets can lead to unintended outcomes, as happened with the IBM Watson for Oncology software [249]. Wide adoption of such data sets in healthcare systems can have far-reaching negative consequences.

The risk of hacking is also an inevitable concern. Deliberate hacking of a computer with AI installed could lead to largescale harm to patients. For example, use of AI which provides wrong histological predictions because of malware could lead to serious consequences, such as neoplastic polyps being left in situ.

A more specific concern is that endoscopists using CAD are obliged to pay attention to the CAD output at the same time as making their own assessment. Thus the CAD output, especially if it was inaccurate, might distract the endoscopist, leading to missing or mischaracterization of polyps [250]. On the other hand, no serious adverse event such as perforation has been reported that was due to such distraction, according to two prospective studies [235,244]. Detection algorithms may produce many false positives which require careful mucosal inspection; this can increase the time and mental load when performing colonoscopy, leading to a lessening of concentration.

There is also an assumption that effects of CAD (e.g. improved adenoma detection) will automatically lead to a reduction in missed CRC, because of the association between ADR and post-colonoscopy CRC [11]. However, changes in ADR produced by AI are in effect improvements in detection of polyps within the visual field, and AI cannot detect polyps in non-inspected mucosa. Therefore if improved ADR is in fact a surrogate measure of enhanced mucosal visualization, with better re-inspection of flexures, suctioning and pressing down mucosal folds, factors not changed by application of AI, the link between enhancement of ADR and fewer missed cancers may not hold true.

Although the evidence on the risks of AI for colonoscopy is limited, nevertheless various risks of AI such as prolonged procedure time, over-reliance on AI, and distraction caused by AI, should be considered, and quality assurance measures instituted [251, 252]. Future prospective studies should assess the impact of these downsides of AI in addition to its efficacy.

#### Disclaimers

The legal disclaimer for ESGE guidelines [10] applies to this Guideline.

The views expressed by J.E. East and M. lacucci are those of these authors and not necessarily those of the National Health Service (England and Wales), the National Institute for Health Research or the UK Department of Health.

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# Supplementary material: Advanced imaging for detection and differentiation of colorectal neoplasia: ESGE Guideline – Update 2019

## Appendix 1s: Task forces

Торіс	Task force
	(Chair in bold)
1: Detection of colorectal neoplasia in average risk population	C. Hassan
	M. Bustamante Balén, G. Cortas,
	M. Kaminski, G. Antonelli
2: Detection of colorectal neoplasia in high risk population:	M. Pellisé
FAP, aFAP, Lynch, Peutz–Jeghers, SPS	R. Bisschops, G. Cortas, J. East,
	Y. Hasewinkel, M. Iacucci
3: Detection and differentiation of colorectal neoplasia in IBD	H. Neumann
	R. Bisschops, M. Iacucci, M. Pellisé
4: Differentiation between neoplastic and non-neoplastic small	E. Dekker & Y. Hazewinkel
colorectal polyps.	M Bustamante Balén, E. Coron,
	C. Hassan, M. Iacucci, I. Puig del Castillo,
	G Longcroft-Wheaton
5: Role of advanced imaging in treatment of colorectal	M. Kaminski
neoplasia	E. Corron, M. Iacucci, H. Neumann,
	P. Pelissé, I. Puig del Castillo
6: Role of artificial intelligence in detection and	J. East
characterisation of colorectal polyps.	R. Bisschops, C. Hassan, H. Neumann,
	Y. Mori

## Appendix 2s Levels of evidence according to the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) system [9]

Evidence level	
High quality	One or more well-designed and well-executed randomized controlled trials (RCTs)
	that yield consistent and directly applicable results. This also means that further
	research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.
Moderate	RCTs with important limitations (i.e. biased assessment of the treatment effect,
quality	large loss to follow-up, lack of blinding, unexplained heterogeneity), indirect
	evidence originating from similar (but not identical) populations of interest, and
	RCTs with a very small number of participants or observed events. In addition,
	evidence from well-designed controlled trials without randomization, well-designed
	cohort or case-control analytic studies, and multiple time series with or without
	intervention are in this category. It also means that further research will probably
	have an important effect on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may
	change the estimate.
Low quality	Observational studies would typically be rated as low quality because of the risk for
	bias. <sup>1</sup> It also means that further research is very likely to have an important effect
	on our confidence in the estimate of effect and will probably change the estimate.
Very low	Evidence is conflicting, of poor quality, or lacking, and hence the balance of
quality <sup>2</sup>	benefits and harms cannot be determined. Any estimate of effect that is very
	uncertain as evidence is either unavailable or does not permit a conclusion.

<sup>1</sup>Quality of evidence based on observational studies may be rated as moderate or even high, depending on circumstances under which evidence is obtained from observational studies. Factors that may contribute to upgrading the quality of evidence include a large magnitude of the observed effect, a dose–response association, or the presence of an observed effect when all plausible confounders would decrease the observed effect.

<sup>2</sup>Insufficient evidence to determine for or against routinely providing a service.

## Appendix 3s. Evidence tables

Table 1s High definition

Author, Publication, Year [Reference no. in Guideline]	Study Design and Objectives	Intervention	Participants	Outcomes	Results	Level of evidence Conclusions
Subramanian et al. Endsocopy 2011 [12]	Metanalysis of RCTs Compare the diagnostic yield of colonic polyps between high definition colonoscopy and standard video endoscopy (SVE)	2 groups: - Standard colonoscopy - HD colonoscopy	5 studies 4422 patients	Polyp detection rate Adenoma detection rate High risk adenoma detection rate Diminutive polyp detection rate	PDR: Incremental yield of HD 3.8 % (95 %Cl 1 %–6.7) ADR: Incremental yield 3.5%(95%Cl 0.9 %–6.1%) HR-ADR: –0.1 % (95%Cl: –1.7 - 1.6%) Diminutive PDR: Mean difference: 0.093 (95%Cl –0.008-0.194)	Moderate quality Marginal differences between HD and SVE for detection of polyps/adenomas. HD did not improve detection of high risk adenomas.
Rastogi et al. Gastrointest Endosc 2011 [16]	Prospective Single colonoscopy Random order Multicenter (2 academic centers) Compare the adenoma detection of SD vs HD vs NBI	3 groups - SD - HD - NBI	Surveillance and screening patients Sample size calculation N=664	% of patients with adenomas Adenoma per- patient	% pts with adenomas: SD 38.6% vs HD 45.7% vs NBI 46.2% (p=ns) APP: SD 0.69 vs HD 1.12 vs NBI 1.13 (p= 0.016; 0.014)	High quality No difference in proportion of patients with adenomas between SD, HD and NBI. Increased APP using HD or NBI vs WL.
Pioche et al. Gastrointest Endosc 2018 [18]	Prospective Tandem colonoscopy Random order Multicenter Compare adenoma detection and miss rates between latest generation HD endoscopes (Olympus 190) vs SD next to last (Olympus 160)	2 groups: - 190→160 - 160→190 2 subsequent colonoscopies	Higher-than-average risk Sample size calculation N=941	Adenoma miss rate Adenoma detection rate	AMR: 190 16.6% vs 160 30.2% (p=<0.0001) ADR: 190 43.8%vs 160 36.5% (p=0,03)	High quality Latest generation HD endoscopes increase ADR vs SD next to last. Multiple improvements are needed to increase ADR.
Zimmerman- Fraedrich et al. Endoscopy 2018 [19]	Prospective Single colonoscopy Random order Private practice setting Compare ADR between	2 groups: - 190 - 160	Screening population Sample size calculation N=1221	Adenoma detection rate Diminutive polyps rate Adenoma rate (all	ADR: 190 32% (95%(CI) 26%-39%) vs.160 28% (95%CI 22% -34 %) (p=0.10)	Moderate quality Latest generation endoscopes show a trend in increasing ADR, and increase diminutive polyp

	latest generation endoscopes (Olympus 190) vs next to last (Olympus 160)			adenomas/all patients)	DPR: 190 22.5%vs 160 15.6%; (p=0,0002) AR: 190 0.57 (95%CI 0.53-0.61) vs. 160 0.47 (95%CI 0.43- 0.5) (p= < 0.001)	detection rate.
Roelandt et al. Endoscopy 2018 [17]	Prospective Single colonoscopy Random order Single center Compare the impact of different imaging modalities and systems on ADR.	3 systems (Olympus, Pentax, Fujinon) combined with 4 imaging modalities (WL, HDWL, virtual chromoendoscopy, HD virtual chromoendoscopy)	Average risk Sample size calculated but not reached N= 1855	Adenoma detection rate	Mean adenoma detection rate (ADR) was 34.9 %. No difference in any modality was found.	Moderate/high quality. No significant differences in ADR or APCR between different endoscopy systems or imaging modalities. HD endoscopy showed a significantly higher detection rate of serrated adenomas and adenocarcinomas.

#### Table 2s Virtual chromoendoscopy

Nagorni et al. Cochrane database of SR 2014 [22]	Metanalysis of RCTs. Compare standard definition or high definition white light colonoscopy with NBI colonoscopy for detection of colorectal polyps.	NBI vs SD- or HD- WL Single or tandem colonoscopy	8 studies 3763 patients	Polyp per patient Adenoma per patient Advanced adenoma per patient Flat adenoma per patient	PPP RR 0.97 [ 0.91, 1.04 ] I <sup>2</sup> =75% APP RR 0.94 [ 0.87, 1.02 ] I <sup>2</sup> =0% AAPP RR 0.85 [ 0.68, 1.06 ] I <sup>2</sup> =0% FAPP RR 0.87 [ 0.72, 1.04 ] I <sup>2</sup> =65%	High quality Narrow band imaging did not significantly improve PDR compared to WLC nor colorectal adenoma or hyperplastic polyps detection.
Atkinson et al. Gastroenterology 2019 [25]	Metanalysis of single patient data from RCTs. Compare efficacy of HD-NBI versus HD WLE in the detection of colonic adenomas.	HD-NBI vs HD-WLE Single or tandem colonoscopy	11 studies 4491 patients 6636 polyps	Adenoma detection rate	ADR (45,2% NBI vs 42.3% WLE [unadjusted OR 1.14; 95% Cl 1.01 to 1.29, P = 0.04] ADR in "adequate" bowel prep group [OR 1.07 (95% Cl 0.92 to 1.24) P = 0.38] ADR in "best" bowel prep group [OR 1.30 (95% Cl 1.04 to 1.62), P = 0.02]	High quality HD NBI significantly improved ADR compared to HD WLE. This effect was greater when bowel prep was optimal and when 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation, bright NBI was used.
Min et al. Gastroint Endos 2017 [27]	Prospective Crossover colonoscopy Randomised Controlled Multicenter Compare sensitivity of LCI versus WL in polyp and adenoma detection	2 groups: - LCI→WL - WL→LCI 2 subsequent endoscopies	Average risk Sample size calculation N=152	Sensitivity of LCI vs WL in polyp/adenoma detection Per-patient adenoma detection rate	Sensitivity in polyp detection: LCI (91%; 95%CI, 87.3% - 93.8%) WL (73%; 95%CI, 68%-78%) (P<0.0001) Sensitivity in adenoma detection: LCI 92% vs WL 85% (p=0.09) Per-patient ADR: LCI 37% vs WL 28%; 95% CI, 2.39% - 19.41% (p=0.0013)	Moderate quality LCI improves detection of polyps and adenomas compared to WL

Paggi et al. Endoscopy 2018 [28]	Prospective Tandem colonoscopy Randomised Controlled Single Center No Profit, No sponsor Evaluate if LCI can reduce right colon Adenoma Miss Rate compared with HD standard WL colonoscopy.	2 groups: - LCI→WL - WL→LCI 2 subsequent endoscopies	Average risk Sample size calculation N=600	Adenoma miss rate in the Right Colon Advanced AMR SSA/P miss rate	AMR LCI–WLI vs WLI–LCI 11.8% vs 30.6% (P < 0.001). Incremental ADR LCI–WLI vs WLI–LCI 2 of 300 patients (0.7 %) vs 13 of 300 patients (4.3%)	High Quality LCI could reduce Adenoma Miss Rate in the Right colon
Ikematsu et al. Gastroint Endos 2017 [29]	Prospective Single colonoscopy Randomised Multicenter Detection of colonic lesions using BLI versus WL	2 groups: - WL - BLI Insertion in WL, withdrawal with 1 of the 2 techniques	Average risk Sample size calculation N=1003	Mean adenoma per patient Mean polyp per patient Adenoma detection rate Polyp detection rate	MAP: WL 1.01±1.36, BLI 1.27±1.73; (p=0.008) MPP: WLI 1.43±1.64, BLI 1.84±2.09; (p=0.001) ADR: WL 52.7% vs. BLI 54.8% (p=ns) PDR: WL 62.4% vs. BLI 68.3% (p=ns)	High quality BLI improves MAP rate but not ADR in comparison to WL.

#### Table 3s Autofluoroscopy

Zhao et al. Endoscopy International Open 2015 [30]	Meta Analysis of RCTs Role of AFI in improving ADR, PDR Role of AFI in reducing AMR, PMR Quality of evidence	2 groups: - AFI - White Light Same day tandem or back to back colonoscopy.	6 studies 1199 patients	Adenoma detection rate Adenoma miss rate Polyp detection rate Polyp miss rate	ADR ([OR] 1.01; [95 %CI] 0.74– 1.37) PDR (OR 0.86; 95 %CI 0.57–1.30) advanced ADR (OR 1.22; 95 %CI 0.69–2.17) AMR (OR 0.62; 95 %CI 0.44–0.86) PMR (OR 0.64; 95 %CI 0.48–0.85) Heterogeneity: $p = 0.67$ ; $l^2 = 0\%$	Moderate quality. AFI decreases AMR and PMR significantly compared with WLE but does not improve ADR or PDR.
Takeuchi et al. Gastrointestinal Endoscopy 2018 [31]	Prospective Single colonoscopy Open Label Random order Multicenter (tertiary referral centers) Impact of updated 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation AFI in detecting flat adenomas vs white light	2 groups: - Updated AFI - WLI Single colonoscopy	Average risk (screening and surveillance) Sample size calculation N=802	Flat adenomas per patient	Flat adenomas per patient: AFI (.87 [95% Cl: .7897]) vs WLI (.53 [95% Cl, .4661]),	Moderate quality Updated AFI improves the detection of flat colorectal neoplasms compared with WLI, but not of adenomas or polyps.

#### Table 4s Add-on devices

Facciorusso et al. Clinical Gastroenterol Hepatol 2017 [32]	Network Meta-Analysis of RCTs Compare the relative efficacy of several add-on devices (Cap, Endocuffs, Endorings) for the improvement of colon ADR.	Distal attachments devices: Cap, Endocuff and Endorings. Same day tandem or back to back colonoscopy.	Overall: 25 studies 16103 patients 14 studies→Cap vs Standard Colonoscopy (SC) 9 studies→Endocuff vs SC 1 study→Endoring vs SC 1 study→Endocuff vs Cap	Adenoma detection rate	ADR Overall devices vs SC (39.3% vs 35.1%, RR, 1.13; 95% Cl, 1.03-1.23; p=0.007; l2= 75%) Cap vs SC (37% vs 34.3%, RR, 1.07; 95% Cl, 0.96-1.19; p=0.19) Endocuff vs SC (40.4% vs 34.6%, RR 1.21, 1-03-1.41; p=0.02) Endorings vs SC (RR 1.70, 1.05-2.76; p=0.03)	High quality. Distal attachment devices determine only modest improvements in ADR, especially in low performing endoscopists.
Clelia et al. UEG Journal 2018 (conference abstract) [33]	Network Meta-Analysis of RCTs Compare the efficacy of mucosal flattening assisted colonoscopy vs SC to improve the ADR in pts undergoing colonoscopy	Mucosal flattening devices: Endocuff, Endovision, Endorings Same day single or tandem colonoscopy.	10 studies 6407	Adenoma detection rate	ADR Endocuff vs SC (1.36; 95%Cl 1.12 to 1.60; p=0.001; I <sup>2=</sup> 60.0%; p=0.01)	Moderate Quality Endocuff moderately improved ADR overall but this improvement was not significant when the ADR was greater than 40% using SC. Endocuff was clinically and statistically relevant when ADR with SC when ADR <25%.

#### Table 5s Chromoendoscopy

Brown et al. Cochrane Database Rev 2016 [34]	Systematic review and meta- analysis of prospective RCTs Determine if chromoscopy improves polyps and neoplasia detection	2 groups: - Standard WL colonoscopy - Chromoendoscopy with blue dye Single or tandem colonoscopy (subgroups analysis)	7 RCTs 2727 patients	Polyp detection rate Neoplasia detection rate Polyps per patient Neoplasia per patient Diminutive neoplastic polyps rate Patients with 3 or more adenomas	PDR: Mean difference: $0.89$ [95%Cl 0.74-1.04] p = <0,0001 Neoplasia detection rate: Mean difference: $0.33$ [95% Cl 0.25-0.41] p=<0,0001 Polyps per patient: OR for chromoendoscopy: 1.87 [95%Cl: 1.51-2.30] p=<0,0001 Neoplasia per patient: OR for chromoendoscopy: 1.53 [95%Cl 1.31-1.79] Diminutive neoplastic polyps: Mean difference: $0.21$ [95%Cl: 0.10-0.32] Pts with 3 or more adenomas: OR for chromoendoscopy 1.34 [95%Cl: 0.96-1.87]	Low quality evidence Strong evidence that chromoendoscopy enhances the detection of neoplasia in the colon and rectum Small polpys detection rate was improved by chromoendoscopy by about 90%. Detection of small polyps that could potentially develop into cancer was increased by about 30%.
Lesne et al. Endoscopy 2017 [35]	Prospective Random order Multicenter Single colonoscopy Open Label Compare ADR and mean adenoma per patient (MAP) for blue-water infusion colonoscopy (BWIC) versus standard colonoscopy	2 groups: - HD WLE - BWIC Single colonoscopy	Validated indication for colonoscopy Sample size calculation N=1050	Adenoma detection rate Mean adenoma per patient Sessile serrated adenoma detection rate	ADR: BWIC 40.4vs WLE 37.5 % [OR] 1.13; 95%CI: 0.87-1.48; p=0.35) MAP: BWIC: 0.79 vs WLE 0.64; p = 0.005 SSAP rate: BWIC: 0.07 ± 0.35 vs WLE 0.05 ± 0.27 (p = 0.45)	Moderate quality BWIC does not increase ADR nor SSAP detection. Whether increased detection (MAP) results in a reduced rate of interval carcinoma is unknown.
Repici et al. Gastroenterology 2019 [36]	Prospective Random order Multicenter Single Colonoscopy Placebo Controlled Assess the efficacy and safety of MB-MMX for CRC screening and	3 groups: - 200mg MB-MMX - 100mg MB-MMX - Placebo Single colonoscopy	Screening and surveillance population Sample size calculation N= 1205	Adenoma detection rate False positive rate	ADR: (200mg MB MMX 56.29% vs placebo 47.81%, OR 1.41 95%CI: 1.09, 1.81) FPR: (MB-MMX 23.3% vs placebo 29.3%)	High quality MB-MMX leads to an absolute 8.5% increase in ADR compared to placebo, without increasing the removal of non-neoplastic lesions.

surveillance			

**Table 6s** Studies comparing the use of dye-based chromoendoscopy over white light and NBI in Lynch syndrome patients

Author, Publication, Year [Reference no. in Guideline]	Study Design and Objectives	Intervention	Participants	Outcomes	Results	Level of evidence
Hurlstone, AJG, 2005 [37]	Unicenter Back-to-back sequential	Indigo carmine pancolonic chromoendoscopy SD	MMR (84%) ± Amsterdam II. N=25	Number of adenomas detected	Number of adenomas: WLE: 11 CE: 32 ADR WLE: 28% ADR CE: 68% P = 0.001	Low quality; unicenter; SD scopes; underpowered; same explorer; back to back
Lecomte Clin Gastro Hep 2005 [38]	Unicenter Back-to-back sequential	Indigo carmine chromoendoscopy proximal to splenic flexure SD	MMR (50%) ± Amsterdam N=33	Number of adenomas detected	Number of adenomas in the proximal colon WLE: 3 CE: 11 ADR WLE: 9% ADR CE: 30% P=0.045	Low quality; unicenter; SD scopes; underpowered; inadequate bowel preparation (57%) included; same explorer; back to back
Stoffel CancerPrevRes 2008 [40]	Multicenter, Randomized Two arms Back to back parallel	First pass WLE Second pass two arms: -Indigo carmine pancolonic chromoendoscopy vs - at least 20 minutes WLE inspection SD	MMR 85% ± Amsterdam N=54	Number of adenomas detected	Number of adenomas First pass: WLE: 10 (4 in arm CE; 6 in ≥20'inspection) Second pass: CE: 3 WLE ≥ 20'inspection: 7 P= 0.77	Moderate quality; multicenter; randomized and parallel design; but underpowered; same explorer; and SD
					ADR first pass WLE:	
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					15%	
					ADR second pass CE:	
					11%	
					ADR second pass	
					WLE ≥20': 19%	
					P = 0.27	
Hüneburg Endoscopy	Unicenter	Indigo carmine pancolonic	MMR 89% ±	Number of	Number of	Moderate quality;
2009	Back-to-back	chromoendoscopy	Amsterdam	adenomas	adenomas:	back to back; same
[41]	Two arms:	SD/HD	N=109		WLE: 7	explorer; unicenter;
					CE after WLE: 13	underpowered; very
	WLE followed by CE	WLE followed by CE and				low ADR at first pass.
					(P=<0.032)	
	INBI TOILOWED BY CE	NBI followed by CE			NBI: 11	
	removed in the first				CE after NBI: 39	
	pass				(P=0.001)	
					ADR WLE: 15%	
					ADR CE: 19%	
					(P= n.s.)	
					ADR NBI: 14%	
					ADR CE: 35%	
					(P= 0.04)	
Rahmi, AJG, 2015	Multicenter	Indigo carmine pancolonic	MMR 100%	Number of	Number of	Moderate quality;
[39]	Back-to-back	chromoendoscopy	N=78	adenomas detected	adenomas	back to back; 74%
	Different	SD			WLE: 26	power; different
	endoscopist second				CE:29	explorers; 100%
	pass					MMR
					ADR WLE: 23%	
					ADR CE: 41%	
					(	
					(P < 0.001)	
Haanstra , GIE, 2019	Multicenter;	Indigo carmine	MMR 100%	Neoplasia detection	ADR Whole colon	Good quality; parallel;
[42]	randomized; Parallel	chromoendoscopy proximal to	N=246	rate	WLE: 27%	randomized;
		splenic flexure			CE: <mark>30</mark> %	multicenter;
		SD/HD			(P= 0.56)	100%MMR; but CE
					ADR Proximal colon:	only in the proximal

					WLE 16%	colon and 10 years
					CE:24%	for inclusion
					(P=0.013)	
Rivero-Sánchez,	Multicenter;		MMR 100%	Adenoma detection	WLE ADR: 28.1%	Good quality; parallel;
UEGW 2018;	randomized; Parallel	WLE vs Indigo carmine	N= 256	rate	(95% CI 21.1 –	multicenter; 100%
ESGEdays 2019		pancolonic chromoendoscopy			36.4%)	MMR; 100% HD
[43]	Non-inferiority	HD			CE ADR: 34.4% (95%	Non inferiority
		* High adenoma detectors			Cl 26.4 – 43.3%)	design; high
					P= 0.2	detectors
					(WLE non- inferior	
					to CE)	

NBI, Narrow-band imaging; SD, standard definition; HD, high definition; MMR, mismatch repair; WLE, white-light endoscopy; CE, Chromoendoscopy; n.s, not significant; CI, confidence interval

Author, Publication, Year [Reference no. in Guideline]	Study Design and Objectives	Intervention	Participants	Outcomes	Results	Level of evidence
East, Gut , 2008 [44]	Unicenter Back-to-back sequential	WLE followed by NBI Exera II proximal to sigmoid colon HD	MMR (13%) ± Amsterdam II. N=62	Number of adenomas detected	Number of adenomas: WLE: 25 NBI: 46 ADR WLE: 27% ADR NBI: 42% P=0.004	Low quality; unicenter; only 13% MMR; underpowered; same explorer; back to back
Hüneburg Endoscopy 2009 [41]	Unicenter Back-to-back Two arms: first pass with CE; NBI SD **Polyps were not removed in the first pass	Indigo carmine panchromoendoscopy	MMR 89% ± Amsterdam N=109	Number of adenomas detected	Number of adenomas: WLE: 7 CE after WLE: 13 NBI: 11 CE after NBI: 39 ADR WLE: 15% ADR WLE: 15% ADR CE: 19% ADR NBI: 14% ADR CE: 35%	Moderate; back to back; same explorer; unicenter; very low ADR at first pas.
Bisschops, Endoscopy, 2017 [45]	Unicenter, Back-to-back Cross-over	Two arms WLE followed by i- scan i-scan followed by WLE	MMR 64% N=61	Adenoma miss rate Number of adenomas detected	Number of adenomas -First pass WLE: 5 second pass i- scan:8	Moderate; unicenter; back to back; 64% MMR; very low ADR for arm with first pass

# Table 7s Studies comparing the use of virtual chromoendoscopy over white light and CE in Lynch syndrome patients

		HD			Miss rate 62%	WLE (19%)
					-First pass i- scan 15 Second pass WLE 2 Miss rate 12% (P=0.007) ADR WLE:	
					19%->IScan: 16%	
					ADR	
					iscan:30%-	
					>WLE 7%	
					(P=0.098)	
Cellier,	Multicenter	Indigo carmine	MMR (100%)	Number of	Number of	Moderate
UEGW2018	Back-to-back	chromoendoscopy	N= 138	adenomas	adenomas:	quality;
[46]	sequential	First pass: NBI		detected	NBI:39	multicenter;
	Non inforiarity	Second pass: CE			CE 75	large cohort;
	Non-interiority	HD			ADR NBI:	75% power;
					20.3%	back to back
					ADR CE: 30.4%	design
					(NBI inferior to CE)	

NBI, Narrow-band imaging; HD, high definition; SPS, serrated polyposis syndrome; WLE, white-light endoscopy; CE, Chromoendoscopy; CI, confidence interval

Author, Publication, Year [Reference no. in Guideline]	Study Design and Objectives	Intervention	Participants	Outcomes	Results	Level of evidence
López-Vicente , CGH 2019 [56]	Multicenter Back-to-back Randomized, Parallel	-WLE followed by WLE - WLE followed by Indigo-carmine pancolonic chromoendoscopy HD	SPS patients under surveillance N=86	Additional polyp detection rate	Additional polyp detection rate: WLE group 0.22; (95% CI, 0.18- 0.27) HD-CE group 0.39; (95% (CI, 0.35-0.44) (P < 0.001)	Good quality; multicenter; back to back; same explorer; control arm; Concern about clinical significance: 70% of additional SLs detected by CE were hyperplastic polyps, at least two-thirds of them were located proximal to the sigmoid colon
Boparai, Endoscopy 2011 [57]	Unicenter Back-to-back	WLE followed by NBI NBI followed by WLE HD	SPS patients N=22	Polyp missrate	Polyp missrate 10% vs. 36%; OR 0.21 (95 %Cl 0.09 – 0.45) (P<0.001)	Low quality; back to back; same explorer; unicenter
Hazewinkel, GIE 2015 [58]	Multicenter, Back-to-back, crossover	WLE followed by NBI NBI followed by WLE HD	SPS patients N=52	Polyp missrate	Polyp missrate WLE – NBI: 29% NBI – WLE: 20% ( <i>P</i> =0.065)	Moderate quality; multicenter; back to back;
Rivero-Sánchez, Endoscopy 2019 [59]	Multicenter RCT, parallel	WLE vs Endocuff HD	N= 122	Number of serrated lesions per patient	Endocuff: 5.8 (95% CI 4.4-7.2) WLE: 5.0 (95% CI 3.9-6.1) ( <i>P</i> =0.36)	High quality; multicenter; large cohort; Parallel; high detectors

 Table 8s
 Ancillary techniques for serrated polyposis syndrome (SPS) surveillance

Kiesslich R et al. Gastroenterology 2003 [62]	randomized, controlled trial test whether chromoendoscopy (CE) might facilitate early detection of IN and CRC in UC.	Methylene blue- aided chromoendoscopy	236 patients with long standing UC	early detection of IN and CRC in UC.	In the CE group, there was a significantly better correlation between the endoscopic assessment of degree (P = 0.0002) and extent (89% vs. 52%; P < 0.0001) of colonic inflammation and the histopathologic findings compared with the conventional colonoscopy group. More targeted biopsies were possible, and significantly more IN were detected in the CE group (32 vs. 10; P = 0.003). Using the modified pit pattern classification, both the sensitivity and specificity for	CE permits more accurate diagnosis of the extent and severity of the inflammatory activity in UC compared with conventional colonoscopy. In addition, CE with methylene blue is a novel tool for the ea detection of IN and CRC in patients with UC.
Kiesslich R et al. Gastroenterology 2007 [63]	randomized controlled trial	Methylene blue- aided chromoendoscopy and endomicroscopy	161 patients with long term UC	value of combined chromoscopy and endomicroscopy for the diagnosis of intraepithelial neoplasias	differentiation between non- neoplastic and neoplastic lesions were 93%. By using chromoscopy with endomicroscopy, 4.75-fold more neoplasias could be detected (P = .005) than with conventional colonoscopy, although 50% fewer biopsy specimens (P = .008) were required.	chromoscopy-guided endomicroscopy may lead to significant improvements in clinical management of UC.
Subramanian Vet al. APT 2011 [64]	Meta-analysis	Chromoendoscopy	Six studies involving 1277 patients	yield of chromoendoscopy for detecting dysplasia	The difference in yield of dysplasia between chromoendoscopy and white light endoscopy was 7% (95% Cl 3.2-11.3) on a per patient analysis with an NNT of 14.3. The difference in proportion of lesions detected by targeted biopsies was 44% (95% Cl 28.6-59.1) and flat lesions was 27% (95% Cl 11.2-41.9) in favour of chromoendoscopy	Chromoendoscopy is significantly better than white light endoscopy in detecting dysplasia in patients with co IBD

## **Table 9s** Standard white light endoscopy (SWLE) and chromoendoscopy (1)

Hlavaty T EJGH 2011 [65]	Cohort study	WLE and CE and CLE	30 patients	compare WLE and CE for the detection of intraepithelial neoplasia	no IENs found on random biopsies versus six low-grade or high-grade IENs in four patients. The sensitivity of CE/CLE for low-grade or high- grade IEN was 100/100%, the specificity 96.8/98.4%, positive predictive value was 62.5/66.7% and negative predictive value was 100/100%.	Targeted biopsies are super to random biopsies in the screening of IEN in patients inflammatory bowel disease increases the diagnostic yie WLE. In our study CLE did r provide additional clinical benefits
Günther U Int J Colorectal Dis. 2011 [66]	Cohort study	random biopsy and targeted biopsy	150 surveillance colonoscopies	comparison of random biopsy vs. targeted biopsy protocols	In group I (1531 biopsies), no IEN was detected by histology. In group II (1,811 biopsies), chromoendoscopy-guided biopsies revealed high-grade IEN in two patients (4% detection rate). In four patients of group III (1477 biopsies), areas with high-grade IEN were clearly visible by CEM and confirmed by histology (8% detection rate, $p < 0.05$ ). Of six patients with high-grade IEN, five patients underwent proctocolectomy. Colorectal cancer was detected in one out of five patients	Targeted biopsy protocols guided by either chromoendoscopy or CEM to higher detection rates of and are thus mandatory for surveillance colonoscopies patients with long-standing
Deepak P et al. GIE 2016 [67]	Retrospective cohort study	CE	78 UC patients	diagnostic yield of chromoendoscopy	first CE visualized dysplastic lesions in 50 patients, including 34 new lesions (not visualized on the index examination). Endoscopic resection was performed successfully of 43 lesions, most in the cecum/ascending colon (n = 20) with sessile morphology (n = 33). After the first CE, 14 patients underwent surgery that revealed 2 cases of colorectal cancer and 3 cases of high-grade dysplasia. Multiple CEs were performed in 44 patients. Of these, 20 patients had 34 visualized lesions, 26 of which were new findings	Initial and subsequent CE performed in IBD patients w history of colorectal dysplas WLE frequently identified ne lesions, most of which were amenable to endoscopic treatment
Marion JF et al., CGH 2016 [68	prospective, longitudinal study	CE	68 patients	compare standard colonoscopy vs CE in detecting dysplasia	In the 208 examinations conducted, 44 dysplastic lesions were identified in 24 patients; 6 were detected by random biopsy, 11 by WLE, and 27 by CE. Ten patients were referred for colectomy, and no carcinomas were found. At any time during the study period, CE (OR, 5.4; 95% confidence interval [CI], 2.9-9.9) and	CE was superior to random biopsy or WLE analyses in detecting dysplasia in patier with colitis during an almost month period

					targeted WLE (OR, 2.3; 95% CI, 1.0-5.3) were more likely than random biopsy analysis to detect dysplasia. CE was superior to WLE (OR, 2.4; 95% CI, 1.4-4.0). Patients identified as positive for dysplasia were more likely to need colectomy (hazard ratio, 12.1; 95% CI, 3.2- 46.2)	
Carballal SI. GUT 2018 [70]	Prospective multicenter study	Real life CE	350 patients	assess the effectiveness of CE for neoplasia detection and characterisation	Ninety-four (15.7%) dysplastic (1 cancer, 5 high-grade dysplasia, 88 low-grade dysplasia) and 503 (84.3%) non-dysplastic lesions were detected in 350 patients (47% female; mean disease duration: 17 years). Colonoscopies were performed with standard definition (41.5%) or high definition (58.5%). Dysplasia miss rate with white light was 40/94 (57.4% incremental yield for CE). CE-incremental detection yield for dysplasia was comparable between standard definition and high definition (51.5% vs 52.3%, p=0.30).	E presents a high diagnosti yield for neoplasia detectior irrespectively of the technol and experience available in centre
Mooiweer E, et al. AJG 2015 [69]	Retrospective study	CE Random biopises	401 patients were performed using chromoendoscopy and 1,802 colonoscopies in 772 patients using WLE	Can chromoendoscopy increase the detection of dysplasia	Dysplasia was detected during 48 surveillance procedures (11%) in the chromoendoscopy group as compared with 189 procedures (10%) in the WLE group (P=0.80). Targeted biopsies yielded 59 dysplastic lesions in the chromoendoscopy group, comparable to the 211 dysplastic lesions detected in the WLE group (P=0.30).	chromoendoscopy for IBD surveillance did not increas dysplasia detection compar with WLE with targeted and random biopsies

**Table 10s** Standard white light endoscopy (SWLE) and chromoendoscopy (2)

lacucci M et al., AJG 2018 [74]	randomized non-inferiority trial	high definition (HD), (DCE), or virtual chromoendoscopy (VCE) using iSCAN	270 patients with IBD	determine the detection rates of neoplastic lesions in IBD patients with longstanding colitis	Neoplastic lesion detection rates in the VCE arm was non-inferior to the DCE arm. HD was non- inferior to either DCE or VCE for detection of all neoplastic lesions. In the lesions detected, location at right colon and the Kudo pit pattern were predictive of neoplastic lesions (OR 6.52 (1.98-22.5 and OR 21.50 (8.65- 60.10), respectively).	VCE or HD-WLE is not inferior to dye spraying colonoscopy for detection of colonic neoplastic lesions during surveillance colonoscopy. In fact, in this study HD- WLE alone was sufficient for detection of dysplasia, adenocarcinoma or all neoplastic lesions
Iannone A et al., Clin Gastro Hep 2017 [72]	systematic review of randomized trials	CE vs. other endoscopic techniques	10 randomized trials (n = 1500 participants)	comparing chromoendoscopy vs other endoscopic techniques for dysplasia surveillance	There was a higher likelihood of detecting patients with dysplasia with chromoendoscopy compared with other techniques (RR, 1.37; 95% CI, 1.04-1.79). Subgroup analyses confirmed this effect only if chromoendoscopy was compared with standard- definition white-light endoscopy (RR, 2.12; 95% CI, 1.15-3.91). There was no difference in the likelihood of detecting dysplastic subtypes and dysplasia by targeted biopsies between groups. Test sensitivity and specificity were similar between groups	chromoendoscopy identifies more patients with dysplasia only when compared with standard- definition white-light endoscopy
Feuerstein JD et al., GIE 2019 [71]	Meta analysis	SWLE, HDWLE, CE	10 studies were included 6 of which were RCTs (3 SDWLE and 3 HDWLE).	standard white-light endoscopy (SDWLE) or high-definition white-light endoscopy (HDWLE) versus dye-based chromoendoscopy	Seventeen percent (84/494) of patients were noted to have dysplasia using chromoendoscopy compared with 11% (55/496) with white- light endoscopy (relative risk [RR] 1.50; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.08-2.10). When analyzed separately,	n-RCTs demonstrate a benefit of chromoendoscopy over SDWLE and HDWLE, whereas RCTs only show a small benefit of chromoendoscopy over SDWLE, but not over HDWLE

					chromoendoscopy (n = 249) was more effective at identifying dysplasia than SDWLE (n = 248) (RR, 2.12; 95% CI, 1.15-3.91), but chromoendoscopy (n = 245) was not more effective compared with HDWLE (n = 248) (RR, 1.36; 95% CI, 0.84-2.18). The quality of evidence was moderate. In non-RCTs, dysplasia was identified in 16% (114/698) of patients with chromoendoscopy compared with 6% (62/1069) with white-light endoscopy (RR, 3.41; 95% CI, 2.13-5.47). Chromoendoscopy (n = 58) was more effective than SDWLE (n = 141) for identification of dysplasia (RR, 3.52; 95% CI, 1.38-8.99), and chromoendoscopy (n = 113) was also more effective than HDWLE (n = 257) (RR, 3.15; 95% CI, 1.62-6.13). The quality of the evidence was very low	
Bessissow T et al., IBD 2018 [73]	network meta-analysis	SDWLE, HDWLE, NBI, CE	8 parallel-group RCTs (924 patients	Compared efficacy of different dysplasia detection techniques	low-quality evidence supports chromoendoscopy over SD-WLE (odds ratio [OR], 2.37; 95% credible interval [CrI], 0.81-6.94) for any dysplasia detection, whereas very low-quality evidence supports using HD- WLE or NBI over SD-WLE (HD- WLE [vs SD-WLE]: OR, 1.21; 95% CrI, 0.30-4.85; NBI: OR, 1.68; 95% CrI, 0.54-5.22). Very low-quality evidence from indirect comparative analysis supports the use of chromoendoscopy over HD-WLE (OR, 1.96; 95% CrI, 0.72-5.34) or NBI (OR, 1.41; 95% CrI, 0.70-2.84) for any dysplasia detection. The number of patients with advanced neoplasia was very small, precluding meaningful analysis	Did not find any single technique to be superior, chromoendoscopy is probably more effective than SD-WLE for detecting any dysplasia, and there is low confidence in estimates supporting its use over HD-WLE or NBI

#### Table 11s Virtual chromoendoscopy

Ignjatovic A et al. AJG 2012 [77]	randomized, parallel-group trial	WLE, NBI	220 patients	investigate whether narrow band imaging (NBI) can improve dysplasia detection compared with WLE	There was no difference in the primary outcome between the two groups, with 5 patients having at least one dysplastic lesion in each group (odds ratio (OR) 1.00, 95 % confidence interval (95 % Cl) $0.27 - 3.67$ , P = 1.00). This remained unchanged when adjusted for other variables (OR 0.69, 95 % Cl 0.16 - 2.96, P = 0.62). Overall, dysplasia detection was 9 % in each arm. Yield of dysplasia from random nontargeted biopsies was 1 / 2,707 (0.04 %)	Overall, in this multicenter parallel-group trial, there was no difference in dysplasia detection when using NBI compared with high- definition WLE colonoscopy. Random background biopsies were ineffective in detecting dysplasia
Dekker E et al., Endoscopy 2007 [78]	prospective, randomized, crossover study	WLE, NBI	42 patients	compare the accuracy of NBI with standard colonoscopy for the detection of neoplasia	With NBI, 52 suspicious lesions were detected in 17 patients, compared with 28 suspicious lesions in 13 patients detected during conventional colonoscopy	The sensitivity of the studied first-generation NBI system for the detection of patients with neoplasia seems to be comparable to conventional colonoscopy
Van den Broek FJ et al., Gut 2008 [79]	Randomised comparative trial of tandem colonoscopies	WLE, AFI, NBI	50 patients	assess the value of ETMI for the detection and classification of neoplasia	Among patients assigned to inspection with AFI first (n = 25), 10 neoplastic lesions were primarily detected. Subsequent WLE detected no additional neoplasia. Among patients examined with WLE first (n = 25), three neoplastic lesions were detected; subsequent inspection with AFI added three neoplastic lesions. Neoplasia miss-rates for AFI and WLE were 0% and 50% (p = 0.036).	Autofluorescence imaging improves the detection of neoplasia in patients with ulcerative colitis and decreases the yield of random biopsies

Pellisé M et al., GIE 2011 [80]	Prospective, randomized, crossover study	NBI, WLE	60 patients	compare NBI with CE for the detection of IN	In the per-lesion analysis, NBI resulted in a significantly inferior false-positive biopsy rate ( $P =$ .001) and a similar true-positive rate. The percentage of missed IN lesions and patients was superior with NBI, albeit without reaching statistical significance	NBI appears to be a less time-consuming and equally effective alternative to CE for the detection of IN. However, given the NBI lesion and patient miss rates, it cannot be recommended as the standard technique.
Matsumoto T et al., Colorect Dis 2010 [83]	Pilot study	AFI	48 patients	examine whether AFI colonoscopy can identify dysplasia in ulcerative colitis	About 126 sites (35 protruding lesions and 91 flat areas) were examined by AFI colonoscopy. AF was determined to be high in 42 areas and to be low in 84 areas. The positive rate of dysplasia was higher in protrusions (31%) than in flat mucosa (3.3%, P < 0.0001). The rate of positive dysplasia was not statistically different between lesions determined to be low AF (14%) and those to be high AF (5%, P = 0.09). The positive rate of dysplasia in protruding lesions was significantly higher in low AF than in high AF (45.0%vs 13.3%, P = 0.043), while the value in flat lesions was not different between low AF and high AF (8.2%vs 0%, P = 0.3).	Autofluorescence imaging colonoscopy seems to have a role for the detection of dysplaia in ulcerative colitis
Vleugels JLA et al. Lancet Gastro Hep 2018 [84]	ternational, multicentre, randomised controlled trial	CE, AFI	210 patients	determine whether autofluorescence imaging should be further studied as an alternative method for dysplasia surveillance	Dysplasia was detected in 13 (12%) patients by autofluorescence imaging and in 20 patients (19%) by chromoendoscopy. The relative dysplasia detection rate of autofluorescence imaging versus chromoendoscopy for the proportion of patients with ulcerative colitis with at least one dysplastic lesion was 0.65 (80% CI 0.43-0.99). The mean number of detected dysplastic lesions per patient was 0.13 (SD 0.37) for autofluorescence imaging and 0.37 (1.02) for chromoendoscopy (relative dysplasia detection rate 0.36, 80% CI 0.21-0.61).	Autofluorescence imaging did not meet criteria for proceeding to a large non-inferiority trial.

Har-Noy O et al. Dig Dis Sc. 2017 [82]	Meta-analysis	CE, NBI, WLE	5 studies	What is best for neoplasia detection	Chromoendoscopy (n = 361) was superior to WLE (n = 358) with per-patient analysis OR 2.05 (95% CI 1.26, 3.35) and per- lesion analysis OR 2.79 (95% CI 2.08, 3.73). High-definition (HD) chromoendoscopy was superior to HD-WLE with per-lesion analysis OR 2.48 (95% CI 1.55, 3.97). In four studies comparing NBI to WLE (n = 305), no difference was found in per- patient analysis OR 0.97 (95% CI 0.62, 1.53) and per-lesion analysis OR 0.94 (95% CI 0.63, 1.4). In two studies comparing CE to NBI (n = 104), no difference was found in per- patient analysis OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.51, 1.95) and per-lesion analysis OR 1.29 (95% CI 0.69, 2.41).	Chromoendoscopy is superior to WLE for detection of dysplasia in IBD, even with HD endoscopy. No difference in DY could be demonstrated for NBI in comparison with other modalities.
lacucci M et al., AJG 2018 [74]	randomized non-inferiority trial	high definition (HD), (DCE), or virtual chromoendoscopy (VCE) using iSCAN	270 patients with IBD	determine the detection rates of neoplastic lesions in IBD patients with longstanding colitis	Neoplastic lesion detection rates in the VCE arm was non-inferior to the DCE arm. HD was non- inferior to either DCE or VCE for detection of all neoplastic lesions. In the lesions detected, location at right colon and the Kudo pit pattern were predictive of neoplastic lesions (OR 6.52 (1.98-22.5 and OR 21.50 (8.65- 60.10), respectively).	VCE or HD-WLE is not inferior to dye spraying colonoscopy for detection of colonic neoplastic lesions during surveillance colonoscopy. In fact, in this study HD- WLE alone was sufficient for detection of dysplasia, adenocarcinoma or all neoplastic lesions
Bisschops R et al., Gut 2018 [81]	prospective randomised controlled trial		131 patients	compare the performance of CE to VC for the detection of neoplastic lesions	no significant difference between NBI and CE for neoplasia detection. Mean number of neoplastic lesions per colonoscopy was 0.47 for CE and 0.32 for NBI (p=0.992). The neoplasia detection rate was not different between CE (21.2%) and NBI (21.5%) (OR 1.02 (95% CI 0.44 to 2.35, p=0.964). Biopsies from the surrounding mucosa yielded no diagnosis or dysplasia. The per lesion neoplasia detection was 17.4% for CE and 16.3% for NBI (OR 1.09 (95% CI 0.59 to 1.99, p=0.793). The total procedural	CE and NBI do not differ significantly for detection of colitis-associated neoplasia

		time was on average 7 min shorter in the NBI group	

### Table 12s Role of biopsies

Kiesslich R et al. Gastroenterology 2003 [62]	Randomized controlled	CE	165 patients	Does chromoendoscopy (CE) facilitate early detection of IN and CRC in UC	In the CE group, there was a significantly better correlation between the endoscopic assessment of degree ( $P = 0.0002$ ) and extent (89% vs. 52%; $P < 0.0001$ ) of colonic inflammation and the histopathologic findings compared with the conventional colonoscopy group. More targeted biopsies were possible, and significantly more IN were detected in the CE group (32 vs. 10; $P = 0.003$ ).	CE permits more accurate diagnosis of the extent and severity of the inflammator activity in UC compared wi conventional colonoscopy
Kiesslich R et al. Gastroenterology 2007 [63]	Randomized controlled	CE, CLE	161 patients	assessed the value of combined chromoscopy and endomicroscopy for the diagnosis of intraepithelial neoplasias	By using chromoscopy with endomicroscopy, 4.75-fold more neoplasias could be detected (P = .005) than with conventional colonoscopy, although 50% fewer biopsy specimens (P = .008) were required. If only circumscribed lesions would have been biopsied in the first group, the total number of biopsy specimens could have been reduced by more than 90%	Endomicroscopy based on vivo histology can determin if UC lesions identified by chromoscopy should undergo biopsy examination thereby increasing the diagnostic yield and reduct the need for biopsy examinations.
Subramanian V et al. APT 2011 [64]	Meta analysis	CE	Six studies involving 1277 patients	diagnostic yield of chromoendoscopy for detecting dysplasia	The difference in yield of dysplasia between chromoendoscopy and white light endoscopy was 7% (95% CI 3.2- 11.3) on a per patient analysis with an NNT of 14.3. The difference in proportion of lesions detected by targeted biopsies was 44% (95% CI 28.6-59.1) and flat lesions was 27% (95% CI 11.2-41.9) in favour of chromoendoscopy	Chromoendoscopy is significantly better than wh light endoscopy in detectin dysplasia in patients with colonic IBD.

Günther U et al., Int J Colorectal Dis [66]	Pilot study	Random biopises (I) CE (II) CLE (III)	141 UC, 9 CD	compare three different endoscopic surveillance strategies in the detection of IEN	In group I (1531 biopsies), no IEN was detected by histology. In group II (1,811 biopsies), chromoendoscopy- guided biopsies revealed high-grade IEN in two patients (4% detection rate). In four patients of group III (1477 biopsies), areas with high-grade IEN were clearly visible by CEM and confirmed by histology (8% detection rate, p < 0.05). Of six patients with high-grade IEN, five patients underwent proctocolectomy. Colorectal cancer was detected in one out of five patients	Targeted biopsy protocols guided by either chromoendoscopy or CEM led to higher detection rate of IEN and are thus mandatory for surveillance colonoscopies in patients with long-standing UC
Hurlstone DP et al. Endoscopy 2005 [37]	Cohort study	Magnification CE	350 patients	gh-magnification chromoscopic colonoscopy for the detection and characterisation of intraepithelial neoplasia	Significantly more intraepithelial neoplastic lesions were detected in the magnification chromoscopy group compared with controls (69 vs. 24, P<0.0001). Intraepithelial neoplasia was observed in 67 lesions, of which 53 (79%) were detected using magnification chromoscopy alone. Chromoscopy increased the number of flat lesions with intraepithelial neoplasia detected compared with controls (P<0.001). Twenty intraepithelial neoplastic lesions were detected from 12,850 non-targeted biopsies in the HMCC group (0.16%), while 49 intraepithelial neoplastic lesions were detected from the 644 targeted biopsies in the HMCC group (8%). From 12,482 non-targeted biopsies taken in the control group patients, 18 (0.14%) showed intraepithelial neoplasia.	Magnification chromoscop improves the detection of intraepithelial neoplasia in the endoscopic screening patients with chronic ulcerative colitis. Neoplast and non-neoplastic mucos change can be predicted with a high overall accurac using magnification techniques.
Hlavaty T et al. Eur J Gastroenterol 2011 [65]	Pilot study	CE, CLE, WLE	30 patients	compare WLE and CE for the detection of intraepithelial neoplasia	There were no IENs found on random biopsies versus six low-grade or high- grade IENs in four patients (two detected by WLE, four additional by CE) from targeted biopsies, P=0.02. A total of 100 suspicious lesions were detected and analysed by CE and histology. CLE could not examine 32 of 100 lesions (two of 30 flat vs. 30 of 70 pedunculated lesions, P=0.0002, odds ratio 10.5). The sensitivity of CE/CLE for low-grade or high-grade IEN was 100/100%, the specificity 96.8/98.4%, positive predictive value	Targeted biopsies are superior to random biopsie in the screening of IEN in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. CE increas the diagnostic yield of WL

					was 62.5/66.7% and negative predictive value was 100/100%.	
Matsumoto T et al., AJG 2003 [85]	Retrospective study	CE	57 patients, 117 colonoscopies	investigate the accuracy of chromoscopic findings in surveillance for patients with UC	Among 818 specimens, 28 (3.4%) were positive for dysplasia. There were 20 low grade dysplasias and eight high grade dysplasias. Dysplasia was more frequently positive in visible flat lesions (37.1%, p < 0001) and in polypoid lesions (16.9%, p < 0.0001) than in flat mucosa (0.4%, p < 0.0001). Furthermore, it was more frequently positive in visible flat lesions than in polypoid lesions (p < 0.05). High-grade dysplasia was found in 4.4% of polypoid lesions and in 14.8% of visible flat lesions, but it was not detected in flat mucosa. Overall, dysplasia was detected in 12 patients. Positive dysplasia was confined to visible flat lesions in four patients and to flat mucosa in one patient	biopsy from flat visible lesions under chromoscop might improve the accurac of cancer surveillance in U
Rutter MD et al. Gut 2004 [86]	Prospective back-to-back	CE, targeted, non- targeted biopsies	100 patients	Does pancolonic indigo carmine dye spraying improve the macroscopic detection of dysplasia and reduce the dependence on non- targeted biopsies	non-targeted biopsy protocol detected no dysplasia in 2904 biopsies. Forty three mucosal abnormalities (20 patients) were detected during the pre-dye spray colonoscopy of which two (two patients) were dysplastic: both were considered to be dysplasia associated lesions/masses. There was a strong trend towards statistically increased dysplasia detection following dye spraying (p = 0.06, paired exact test). The targeted biopsy protocol detected dysplasia in significantly more patients than the non-targeted protocol (p = 0.02, paired exact test).	targeted biopsies of suspicious lesions may be more effective surveillance methodology than taking multiple non-targeted biopsies

Marion JF et al. AJG 2008 [87]	prospective endoscopic trial	CE targeted biopises, WLE	115 patients	compared dye-spray technique using methylene blue to standard colonoscopic surveillance	Targeted biopsies with dye spray revealed significantly more dysplasia (16 patients with low grade and 1 patient with high grade) than random biopsies (3 patients with low-grade dysplasia) (P= 0.001) and more than targeted nondye spray (8 patients with low-grade and 1 patient with high- grade dysplasia) (P= 0.057).	Colonoscopic surveillance chronic colitis patients usin methylene blue dye-spray targeted biopsies results in improved dysplasia yield compared to conventional random and targeted biopsi methods
Van den Broek FJ et al., AJG 2014 [88]	Retrospective analysis	Random biopises	167 patients and 466 colonoscopies	evaluate the yield and clinical impact of random biopsies taken during colonoscopic surveillance	Overall, neoplasia was detected in 88 colonoscopies (53 patients): in 75 colonoscopies (85%) by targeted biopsies only and in 8 (9.1%) by both targeted and random biopsies. Neoplasia was detected in random biopsies only in five (5.7%) colonoscopies in four (7.5%) patients. Two of these four patients with neoplasia detected only by random biopsies had visible neoplasia in previous colonoscopies. One patient had unifocal low-grade intraepithelial neoplasia (LGIN) that could not be confirmed in three subsequent colonoscopies.	The yield of random biops is low whereas UC- associated neoplasia is macroscopically visible in 94% of colonoscopies. During 10-year surveillanc neoplasia was detected in only random biopsies in fo patients of whom only one had clinical consequences
Watanabe T et al., Gastroenterology 2016 [89]	randomized controlled trial	targeted biopies random biopsies	246 patients with UC	targeted vs random biopsies	The mean number of biopsies found to contain neoplastic tissue per colonoscopy was 0.211 (24 of 114) in the target group and 0.168 (18 of 107) in the random group (ratio of 1.251; 95% confidence interval, 0.679- 2.306). The lower limit was above the non-inferiority margin of 0.65. Neoplasias were detected in 11.4% of patients in the target group and 9.3% of patients in the random group (P = .617). Larger numbers of biopsy samples per colonoscopy were collected in the random group (34.8 vs 3.1 in the target group; P < .001), and the total examination time was longer (41.7 vs 26.6 minutes in the target group; P < .001). In the random group, all neoplastic tissues found in random biopsies were collected from areas of the mucosa with a history or presence of inflammation	targeted and random biopsies detect similar proportions of neoplasias. However, a targeted biops appears to be a more cost effective method.

Gasia MF et al. Clin Gastro Hepat 2016 [90]	Cohort study	CE, HDWLE, virtual chromo	454 patients	determine the optimal endoscopic technique for detecting dysplastic lesions	Neoplastic lesions were detected in 8.2% of the procedures performed in the random biopsy group (95% confidence interval, 5.6-11.7) and 19.1% of procedures in the targeted biopsy group (95% confidence interval, 13.4-26.5) (P < .001). Neoplasias were detected in similar proportions of patients by HD colonoscopy, VCE, or DCE, with targeted biopsy collection.	Targeted biopsies identifie greater proportions of subjects with neoplasia that random biopsies. Targeted collection of biopsy specimens appears to be sufficient for detecting colonic neoplasia in patien undergoing HD colonosco DCE, or VCE, but not WLE
Moussata D et al., Gut 2018 [91]	Prospective multicenter study	CE, random biopsies	495 UC, 505 Crohn's colitis	Are random biopsies still useful for the detection of neoplasia	In 82 patients, neoplasia was detected from targeted biopsies or removed lesions, and among them dysplasia was detected also by random biopsies in 7 patients. Importantly, in 12 additional patients dysplasia was only detected by random biopsies. Overall, 140 neoplastic sites were found in 94 patients, 112 (80%) from targeted biopsies or removed lesions and 28 (20%) by random biopsies. The yield of neoplasia by random biopsies only was 0.2% per-biopsy (68/31 865), 1.2% per-colonoscopy (12/1000) but 12.8% per-patient with neoplasia (12/94). Dysplasia detected by random biopsies was associated with a personal history of neoplasia, a tubular appearing colon and the presence of primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC).	Despite their low yield, random biopsies should be performed in association v CE in patients with IBD wit a personal history of neoplasia, concomitant PS or a tubular colon during colonoscopy

#### Table 13s Neoplasia versus non-neoplasia

Kiesslich R et al. Gastroenterology 2003 [62]	randomized, controlled trial test whether chromoendoscopy (CE) might facilitate early detection of IN and CRC in UC.	Methylene blue- aided chromoendoscopy	236 patients with long standing UC	early detection of IN and CRC in UC.	In the CE group, there was a significantly better correlation between the endoscopic assessment of degree (P = $0.0002$ ) and extent (89% vs. 52%; P < $0.0001$ ) of colonic inflammation and the histopathologic findings compared with the conventional colonoscopy group. More targeted biopsies were possible, and significantly more IN were detected in the CE group (32 vs. 10; P = $0.003$ ). Using the modified pit pattern classification, both the sensitivity and specificity for differentiation between non-neoplastic and neoplastic lesions were 93%.	CE permits more accurate diagnosis of the extent and severity of the inflammatory activity in UC compared with conventional colonoscopy. In addition, CE with methylene blue is a novel tool for the early detection of IN and CRC in patients with UC.
Hlavaty T EJGH 2011 [65]	Cohort study	WLE and CE and CLE	30 patients	compare WLE and CE for the detection of intraepithelial neoplasia	no IENs found on random biopsies versus six low-grade or high-grade IENs in four patients. The sensitivity of CE/CLE for low-grade or high-grade IEN was 100/100%, the specificity 96.8/98.4%, positive predictive value was 62.5/66.7% and negative predictive value was 100/100%.	Targeted biopsies are superior to random biopsies in the screening of IEN in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. CE increases the diagnostic yield of WLE. In our study CLE did not provide additional clinical benefits
Hurlstone DP et al. Endoscopy 2005 [37]	Cohort study	Magnification CE	350 patients	gh-magnification chromoscopic colonoscopy for the detection and characterisation of intraepithelial neoplasia	Significantly more intraepithelial neoplastic lesions were detected in the magnification chromoscopy group compared with controls (69 vs. 24, P<0.0001). Intraepithelial neoplasia was observed in 67 lesions, of which 53 (79%) were detected using magnification	Magnification chromoscopy improves the detection of intraepithelial neoplasia in the endoscopic screening of patients with chronic ulcerative colitis. Neoplastic and non- neoplastic mucosal

					chromoscopy alone. Chromoscopy increased the number of flat lesions with intraepithelial neoplasia detected compared with controls (P<0.001). Twenty intraepithelial neoplastic lesions were detected from 12,850 non-targeted biopsies in the HMCC group (0.16%), while 49 intraepithelial neoplastic lesions were detected from the 644 targeted biopsies in the HMCC group (8%). From 12,482 non-targeted biopsies taken in the control group patients, 18 (0.14%) showed intraepithelial neoplasia.	change can be predicted with a high overall accuracy using magnification techniques.
Kawasaki K et al. Dig Endosc 2019 [92]	Retrospective study	NBI	17 patients	valuate the efficacy of Japanese magnifying colonoscopic classifications for ulcerative colitis- associated neoplasia	Tumors of types 2A, 2B and 3 by JNET classification correlated with the histopathological findings of low-grade dysplasia (LGD)/high-grade dysplasia (HGD), HGD, and massively submucosal invasive (mSM) carcinoma, respectively. Tumors of types III/IV, V <sub>1</sub> low irregularity, and V <sub>1</sub> high irregularity/V <sub>N</sub> by pit pattern classification were correlated with the histopathological findings of LGD/HGD, HGD, and mSM carcinoma, respectively	Japan NBI expert team classification and pit pattern classification may be predictive of the histological diagnosis and invasion depth of UCAN
Sugimoto S et al., GIE 2017 [93]	Retrospective study	WLE, CE, magnification	62 patients	use of unified terminology according to SCENIC for the morphology of dysplasia	0 (0%), 6 (15.4%), 19 (48.7%), 12 (30.8%), and 2 (5.1%) lesions with HGD were classified as pedunculated, sessile, superficial elevated, flat, and depressed, respectively. Nearly 80% of the lesions were located in the rectum or sigmoid colon. All flat and depressed lesions were red in color. Typically, sessile/superficial elevated lesions accompanied a flat area (Is+IIb/IIa+IIb). Ulceration was observed in 2 depressed lesions (5.1%). Although the borders were indistinct in 21 lesions (53.8%) without the use of magnifying colonoscopy, all	endoscopists should recognize that HGD is frequently associated with a flat/superficial elevated area and red discoloration and should inspect particularly carefully in the rectum and sigmoid colon. The findings of chromoendoscopy and magnifying colonoscopy may also be useful in distinguishing lesions from the surrounding mucosa.

					lesions could be distinguished from the surrounding mucosa using magnifying endoscopy	
Van den Broek FJ et al., Gut 2008 [79]	Randomised comparative trial of tandem colonoscopies	WLE, AFI, NBI	50 patients	assess the value of ETMI for the detection and classification of neoplasia	Among patients assigned to inspection with AFI first (n = 25), 10 neoplastic lesions were primarily detected. Subsequent WLE detected no additional neoplasia. Among patients examined with WLE first (n = 25), three neoplastic lesions were detected; subsequent inspection with AFI added three neoplastic lesions. Neoplasia miss-rates for AFI and WLE were 0% and 50% (p = 0.036).	Autofluorescence imaging improves the detection of neoplasia in patients with ulcerative colitis and decreases the yield of random biopsies
Van den Broek FJ et al., Endoscopy 2011 [96]	Randomized crossover trial	NBI, HDWLE	25 patients	compared new- generation narrow- band imaging (NBI) to high-definition endoscopy (HDE) for the detection of neoplasia and evaluated NBI for the differentiation of neoplastic from non- neoplastic mucosa	Twenty-five patients were randomized to undergo HDE first and 23 to undergo NBI first. Of 16 neoplastic lesions, 11 (69 %) were detected by HDE and 13 (81 %) by NBI ( $P = 0.727$ ). Of 11 patients with neoplasia, 9 (82 %) were diagnosed by HDE and 8 (73 %) by NBI ( $P = 1.0$ ). The sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy of the Kudo classification were 76 %, 66 % and 67 %. Corresponding figures for VPI were 80 %, 72 %, and 73 %	NBI does not improve the detection of neoplasia in patients with ulcerative colitis compared to HDE. In addition, NBI proves unsatisfactory for differentiating neoplastic from non-neoplastic mucosa
Matsumoto T et al., GIE 2007 [95]	Cross-sectional study	Magnification, NBI	46 patients, 296 sites	elucidate whether NBI colonoscopy can identify dysplasia in patients with ulcerative colitis	The positive rate of dysplasia was higher in protrusions (2/20 sites, 10%) than in flat mucosa (3/276 sites, 1.1%, $P = .038$ ; however, correction for the multiple testing of data removes this significance). When the surface pattern was taken into account, the rate of positive dysplasia was higher in the tortuous pattern (4/50 sites, 8%) than in the honeycomb-like or villous patterns (1/246 sites.	The tortuous pattern determined by NBI colonoscopy may be a clue for the identification of dysplasia during surveillance for UC

					0.4%, P = .003)	
Bisschops R et al., GIE 2017 [97]	Pilot study	NBI	27 patients	the diagnostic accuracy and the interobserver agreement of the Kudo pit pattern classification in UC patients	Median sensitivity, specificity, negative predictive value, and positive predictive value for diagnosing neoplasia based on the presence of pit pattern other than I or II was 77%, 68%, 88%, and 46%, respectively. Diagnostic accuracy was significantly higher when a diagnosis was made with a high level of confidence (77% vs 21%, P < .001). The overall interobserver agreement for any pit pattern was only fair ( $\kappa$ = .282), with CE being significantly better than NBI (.322 vs .224, P < .001). From a clinical viewpoint the difference between neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions is important. The agreement for differentiation between non-neoplastic patterns (I, II) and neoplastic patterns (III <sub>L</sub> , III <sub>S</sub> , IV, or V) was moderate ( $\kappa$ = .587) and even significantly better for NBI in comparison with CE ( $\kappa$ = .653 vs .495, P < .001).	Differentiation between non-neoplastic and neoplastic pit patterns in UC lesions shows a moderate to substantial agreement among expert endoscopists. The agreement for differentiating neoplastic from non-neoplastic lesions is significantly better for NBI in comparison with HD CE. The assessment of pit pattern I or II with nonmagnified HD CE or NBI has a high negative predictive value to rule out neoplasia
Vleugels JLA et al, J Crohns Colitis 2018 [98]	analysis of multi-centre, randomized controlled trial	NBI, AFI, CE	210 patients, 52 dysplastic, 255 non- dysplastic lesions	ddress the diagnostic accuracy of endoscopic characterization of endoscopic trimodal imaging [ETMI] and CE	sensitivity for real-time prediction of dysplasia was 76.9% (95% confidence interval [CI] 46.2- 95.0) for ETMI, and 81.6% [95% CI 65.7-92.3] for CE. Overall negative predictive value [NPV] for ETMI was 96.9% [95% CI 92.0-98.8] and 94.7% [90.2-97.2] for CE	Sensitivity for endoscopic differentiation of dysplastic lesions detected during surveillance of patients with long-standing UC seems limited using ETMI and CE.

## **Table 14s** Prevalence of advanced histological features and adenocarcinoma in diminutive and small lesions in large studies

		≤5mm	6–9 mm	≤5mm	6-9mm
901 patients Risk unknown Prospective	1938 lesions ≤ 5 mm	0.26	-	0	-
5621 patients Risk unknown Prospective	5137 adenomas ≤ 5 mm	-	-	0	-
445 patients Risk unknown Prospective	357 adenomas ≤ 10 mm (194 adenomas ≤ 5 mm)	-	-	0	1.5
4216 patients Risk unknown Retrospective	5805 adenomas ≤ 10 mm (3016 adenomas ≤ 5 mm)	3.4	12.5	0	0.9
1233 patients Risk medium Prospective	1228 lesions ≤ 10 mm (966 lesions ≤ 5 mm)	0.1	-	-	-
5123 patients Risk increased Retrospective	5047 lesions $\leq$ 10 mm (4381 lesions $\leq$ 5 mm)	-	-	0.05	0.15
3291 patients Risk medium and increased Retrospective	1933 adenomas ≤ 10 mm (1012 adenomas ≤ 5 mm)	1.7	10.1	0	0.87
17834 patients Mixed risk Retrospective	4735 lesions ≤ 10 mm (3303 ≤ 5 mm)	0.2	2.2	0.03	0.49
Uncertain	22082 lesions ≤ 10 mm (14892	-	-	0.16*	2.1*

	≤ 5 mm)				
13609 patients Mixed risk Retrospective	5264 lesions $\leq$ 10 mm (3989 lesions $\leq$ 5 mm)	1.2	5.1	0.03	0.17
307 patients Average risk Prospective	511 lesions $\leq$ 10 mm (468 lesions $\leq$ 5 mm)	1.7	10.7	0	0
130 patients Mixd risk Prospective	363 lesions ≤ 10 mm (296 lesions ≤ 5 mm)	2.4	10.4	0	0
10034 patients Mixed risk Retrospective	$10080$ lesions $\leq 10$ mm (8798 lesions $\leq 5$ mm)	0.9	5.3	0.05	0
784 patients FOBT-positive Retrospective	754 adenomas ≤ 10 mm (520 adenomas ≤ 5 mm)	2.8	15.5	-	-
1468 patients Mixed risk Retrospective	414 lesions ≤10mm (342 lesions ≤5mm)	4.7	35.2	0.6	2.8
175 patients FOBT-positive Retrospective	296 lesions ≤ 10 mm (261 lesions ≤ 5 mm)	12.2	44.8	0	0
4967 patients Mixed risk Retrospective	1272 lesions ≤ 10 mm (1025 ≤ 5 mm)	10	27	0	0
140622 patients Mixed risk Prospective	22756 lesions ≤ 10 mm (180479 lesions ≤ 5 mm)	1.2	5.9	0.05	0.15
741 patients Mixed risk Retrospective	990 lesions ≤ 10 mm (760 lesions ≤5 mm)	4.1	13.5	0.3	0.9
1077956 patients Mixed risk Prospective	305224 lesions ≤ 10 mm (198954 lesions ≤ 5 mm)	0.61	1.2	0.08	0.1
Uncertain N patients Mixed risk Retrospective	3602 lesions ≤ 10 mm (2151 ≤ 5 mm)	0.46	3.3	0	0.3
10737 patients	13870 lesions ≤ 10 mm (10816	1.0	5.3	0	0.03

Average risk Retrospective	≤ 5 mm)				
Uncertain N patients Mixed risk Retrospective	12521 lesions ≤ 10 mm (7801 ≤ 5 mm)	-	-	0.19**	2.0**
18579 patients Mixed risk Retrospective	6262 lesions ≤ 10 mm (4902 ≤ 5 mm)	1.3	5.2	0	0.07
4711 patients First colonoscopy Retrospective	2761 lesions ≤ 10 mm (1858 ≤ 5 mm)	0.3	2.4	0.16	0.33
15558 patients with a polypectomy Prospective	37840 polyps ≤ 10 mm (20773 ≤ 5 mm)	2.1	5.6	0	0
2611 patients Mixed risk Prospective	6170 lesions ≤ 10 mm (4746 ≤ 5 mm)	2.1	15.7	0.02	0.28
483998 patients with a polypectomy Retrospective	447294 lesions ≤ 10 mm (305626 ≤ 5 mm)	0.5	1.9	0.02	0.09
3144 patients After positive FIT Prospective	4504 lesions ≤ 5 mm	-	-	0	-
1658 patients Mixed risk Retrospective	2285 lesions ≤ 5 mm	0.4	-	0	-

NOTE: advanced adenoma and adenocarcinoma rates are calculated based on the previous column (lesions or adenomas)

\* Sm invasion rate in depressed type was 8.4% in < 5 mm and 43.6% in 6-9 mm.

\*\* Deep sm invasion

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#### Table 15s Table of evidence 2

Author and year [Reference no. in Guideline]	Study design, study objective	Intervention	Participants	Outcomes	Results	Level of evidence, conclusions
In vivo studies from						
2015 onwards						
Vu et al 2015 Dig Dis Sci (1) [176]	To compare concordance of surveillance interval recommendations and diagnostic performance between resect and discard and standard of care with both academic and community gastroenterologists	Prospective, Observational study conducted at a single outpatient endoscopy center Patients with diminutive polyps on screening or surveillance colonoscopy were included.	315 patients	Concordance of recommended surveillance intervals and diagnostic Performance of histology predictions were compared to histopathological review.	Concordance for surveillance intervals was 82.1 % compared to histopathological review Similar between community and academic gastroenterologists (80.2 vs. 76.3 %, p = 0.38). Sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy of histological predictions made with high confidence were 0.81, 0.36, and 77.1 %. NBI had lower accuracy (73.9 % with NBI vs. 82.5 % with high-definition white light (HWDL) only. p = 0.017)	surveillance interval concordance w below the 90 % threshold deemed acceptable by the ASGE PIVI statement. Diagnostic performance using optica imaging was equal between community and academic endoscopists Level of evidence: moderate
Paggi et al 2015 Endoscopy (2) [172]	Performance of real-time optical diagnosis for diminutive polyps <b>after</b> the inclusion of this approach in an internal quality assurance program, in order to assess its applicability in clinical <b>practice</b>	Four endoscopists attended periodic training sessions on NBI assessment of polyp histology before and during the study. Performance was audited and periodic feedback was provided.	284 outpatients 4 endoscopist	PIVI thresholds	High-confidence characterization of diminutive polyps predicted the correct <b>SUTVeillanCe</b> interval in 95.8% and 93.3% of cases according to European and American guidelines, respectively. NPV for adenoma in the rectosigmoid was 91.3%	With standardized training, community endoscopists were able meet the negative predictive value and surveillance interval thresholds set forth by the American Society fo Gastrointestinal (PIVI thresholds) Level of evidence: moderate
Chandran et al 2015 Intern Med J(3) [177]	To determine whether prediction of COlONOSCOPY SURVEILLANCE intervals based on real-time endoscopic assessment of polyp histology is accurate and cost effective A prospective cohort study	Polyps werd classified according to the Sano- Emura classification system.	94 patients 159 <b>polyps</b> .	Accuracy of optical diagnosis of diminutive colonic polyps.	The sensitivity, specificity and positive and negative predictive values were (with 95%CI) 97.2% (92.1- 99.4%), 78.4% (64.7-88.7%), 90.5% (83.7-95.2%) and 93% (80.9-98.5%) respectively. 92 (98%) patients were correctly triaged to their repeat surveillance colonoscopy.	Endoscopists within a tertiary care setting can accurately predict diminutive polyp histology and confer an appropriate surveillance interval. Level of evidence: moderate

Kaltenbach et al 2015 (4) Gut [178]	A randomised single-masked study to determine whether optical diagnosis of diminutive colorectal polyps meets clinical practice standards and reduces the need for histopathology	Patients were randomly assigned undergoing routine high-definition colonoscopy to <b>Optical</b> <b>diagnOSis</b> using near focus versus standard view, An <b>Optical diagnOSis</b> and a confidence level (high vs low) for all <b>pOlyps</b> , using NBI was performed	558 subjects 1309 diminutive polyps	Primary endpoint was the number of accurate high- confidence <b>OptiCal</b> diagnoses compared with central blinded pathology in the two groups	Optical versus histopathological diagnosis showed agreement between the surveillance intervals, 93.5% in near focus and 92.2% in standard view	Real-time optical diagnosis using NBI colonoscopy may replace the pathology diagnosis for the majority of diminutive colorectal polyps. Level of evidence: high
Klare et al. 2016 Endoscopy (5) [175]	To compare NBI with HDWL endoscopy for accuracy of real-time Optical diagnosis of small colorectal polyps. Randomized, prospective, multicenter trial	In the NBI arm, endoscopists used NBI for the prediction of polyp pathology on the basis of the NICE classification. In the HDWL arm, NBI was not used for <b>Optical</b> classification of polyp histology	380 patients	Accuracy of <b>Optical</b> diagnoses (neoplastic vs. non-neoplastic) in <b>Small</b> <b>polyps</b> measuring < 10 mm.	Accuracy, sensitivity, and NPV were 73.7%, 82.4%, and 75.5%, respectively, in the NBI arm and 79.2%, 79.8%, and 73.4%, respectively, in the HDWL arm (P=0.225, P=0.667, P=0.765	The levels of accuracy for real-time prediction of polyp histology (<10 mm) did not differ between NB and HDWL for Optical diagnosis Variation in the performance of Optical diagnosis was apparent between study centers. Level of evidence: high
Patel et al 2016 Gastroenterology (6) [173]	To investigate whether endoscopists without prior training in NBI can achieve PIVI thresholds Multicenter multi endoscopist cohort study	Standardized training NBI for in-vivo diagnosis against ASGE standards	1451 colonoscopies 3012 diminutive polyp	Accuracy of surveillance intervals set using NBI when compared to conventional histology	The overall negative predictive value for high- confidence characterizations in the rectosigmoid was 94.7% (95% confidence interval: 92.6%-96.8%) and the surveillance interval agreement was 91.2% (95% confidence interval: 89.7%-92.7%).	With standardized training, gastroenterologists without prior expertise in NBI were able to meet the negative predictive value and surveillance interval thresholds set forth by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (PIVI standards) Level of evidence: high
Rees et al 2016 Gut (7) [179]	To investigate optical diagnosis of small colorectal polyps Prospective, blinded study Community gastroenterologists	NBI-assisted optical diagnosis compared with reference standard histopathological findings Adults undergoing routine colonoscopy in six general hospitals in the UK.	1688 patients	test sensitivity was determined at the patient level using two thresholds: 1. presence of adenoma and need for surveillance. 2. Accuracy of identifying adenomatous polyps <10 mm	Test sensitivity (need for surveillance) 73.0% (95% Cl 66.5% to 79.9%). Polyp level, test sensitivity (presence of adenoma) 76.1% (95% Cl 72.8% to 79.1%).	NBI optical diagnosis cannot current be recommended for application in routine clinical practice. Level of evidence: high
Vleugels et al 2018	a prospective study with 39	The endoscopists were randomly assigned to	39 endoscopists	PIVI thresholds	Pooled NPV of 90.8% (95% confidence interval 88.6-	A selected group of endoscopists

Gastroenterology (8)	endoscopists	groups that received	3144 colonoscopies		92.6);	fulfilled the PIVIR criteria.
[125]	Endoscopists were trained in optical diagnosis using a validated module (WASP) Endoscopists started a 1-year program in which they performed NBI analyses during colonoscopies of participants in the screening program and predicted histological findings with confidence levels.	feedback or no feedback on the accuracy of their predictions.	4504 diminutive polyps		Surveillance interval agreement 95.4% of (95% confidence interval 94.0-96.6). Findings did not differ between the group that did vs did not receive feedback	Providing regular interim feedback of the accuracy of neoplastic lesion prediction and surveillance interval selection did not lead to differences Level of evidence: high
Bae et al 2019 Clinical gastroenterology and hepatology (9) [174]	to evaluate a training program for real-time optical diagnosis of colorectal polyps, including SSLs (WASP) A single-institution prospective study	Endoscopists trained with WASP. After the first phase of in-vivo <b>Optical</b> <b>diagnosis</b> , their performances were evaluated. After re- <b>education</b> for insufficient competency, they began the second phase.	15 endoscopists 7294 polyps	The learning curves and PIVI thresholds were assessed	The overall accuracy <b>improved</b> from 73.5% in the first phase to 77.1% in the second. Eight endoscopists achieved PIVI benchmarks after the second phase compared with none after the first.	A training program for real- time optical diagnosis significantly improved performance and reduced individual variability in less-experienced endoscopists. 8 of the 15 endoscopists achieved th PIVI thresholds Level of evidence: high

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#### Table 16s Table of evidence 3

Author and year [Reference no. in Guideline]	Study design, study objective	Intervention	Participants	Outcomes	Results	Level of evidence, conclusions
NBI						
Sinh P Dig Endosc 2014 (1) [185]	Observational study Evaluate the impact of a computer-based teaching module on the performance of community gastroenterologists in characterization of the histology of diminutive polyps using NBI video clips.	A 20 min audiovisual training module 80 NBI library video clips	15 community gastroenterologists	Characterization and differentiation of diminutive polyps inter-observer variability	K improved from fair (kappa = 0.27; 95% CI 0.19–0.38) in pretest videos to moderate (kappa = 0.53; 95% CI 0.41–0.64) in post-test videos.	The training session improved the inter-observer agreement from fair (kappa = 0.23) in pretest to moderate (kappa = 0.56) in the post-test Level of evidence: moderate
Rastogi A GIE 2014 (2) [184]	Observational study To assess the impact of a computer-based teaching module on the accuracy of predicting polyp histology with NBI by non-experts (in academics and community practice) by using video clips.	20-minute, computer-based teaching module outlining the different NBI features for hyperplastic and adenoma 80 NBI library video clips	5 Novices, 5 trainees, experienced colonoscopists	Accuracy in predicting polyps inter-observer variabilty	In the pre-test, experts had (kappa = 0.73, substantial agreement) better agreement than both non- experts in academic centres (kappa = 0.3, fair agreement) and non-experts in community practice (0.20, slight agreement). In the post test experts (kappa = 0.81, almost perfect agreement), non-experts in academics (kappa = 0.34, fair agreement) non-experts in community practice (kappa = 0.37, fair agreement)	In spite of the accuracies improving in the post-test for the non-experts, the kappa values remained low. This could be attributed to the fact that in each of the two non-expert groups, there was one participant whose accuracy did not improve in the post-test. Level of evidence: moderate
IJspeert JE Gut 2016 (3) [180]	Observational Study Develop and validate a new classification system for endoscopic differentiation of adenomas, hyperplastic polyps and SSA/Ps <10 mm.	Training module and endoscopic NBI library images First validation 45 images Second validation 50 images	10 consultant gastroenterologists	characterization - Accuracy and differentiating ADs,HPs,and SSA/Ps of diminutive polyps inter-observer variability	First validation phase K improved significantly from 0.32 (95% Cl 0.28 - 0.35) at baseline - 0.58 (95% Cl 0.55 - 0.62) after training about the use of the WASP classification (p<0.001). Second validation phase K remained moderate with a Fleiss' $\kappa$ of 0.54 (95% Cl 0.51 - 0.57).	After short training module the inter-observer agreement was considered moderate after training and remained moderate in the second validation phase Level of evidence: moderate
BLI						

Repici A GIE 2016 (4) [183]	Prospective observational study To assess accuracy and reliability of histologic predictions for polyps <1 cm by applying the NICE classification and FICE System.	Video Library of 55 polyps <1 cm histologically verified with FICE was prospectively assessed	Six experienced endoscopists	Characterization and differentiation of diminutive polyps inter-observer variability	K agreement with the NICE was only moderate (interrater: Fleiss kappa, 0.51; 95% Cl, 0.44-0.56;	The moderate inter-observer agreement ( $k = 0.51$ ) observed in this study did not confirm the corresponding high value ( $k =$ 0.87) of the original NICE publication, <sup>15</sup> indicating that the same NICE criteria cannot be reproduced when applied to the FICE system. Level of evidence: moderate
Dos Santos CE Endosc Int Open 2015 (5) [181]	A prospective double blind trial the accuracy of (FICE) in differentiating neoplastic from non-neoplastic lesions and inter- observer agreement in the analysis of capillary pattern of colorectal lesi ons.	76 patients 100 colorectal lesions	2 endoscopists	Differentiating neoplastic /non neoplastic lesions and inter-observer agreement of capillary pattern	In the analysis of the five capillary pattern types in all 100 lesions, the inter-observer kappa coefficient was 0.80 (95%Cl 0.75−0.85). For the 88 small lesions (≤10mm), the kappa coefficient was 0.88 (95%Cl 0.73−1.00).	IEE with magnification is effective for real-time prediction of histological diagnosis of colorecta l Lesions, with inter- and intra- observer agreement ranging from good to excellent. Level of evidence: moderate
Dos Santos CE Eur J Gastroente rol Hepatol. 20 18 (6) [186]	Prospective study To evaluate the efficacy of using BLI for capillary pattern analysis in the differential diagnosis of neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions.	920 polyps diagnosed in 457 patients.	Endoscopists	Differentiate neoplastic and non neoplastic lesions K coefficient agreement	The [kappa] coefficient was 0.90. - Lesions between 6 and 9 mm [kappa] value was 0.92. BLI- based capillary pattern analysis of lesions at least 10 mm [kappa] value was 0.72.	BLI associated with magnification yielded excellent results for the real-time predictive histological diagnosis of colorectal lesions. A substantial K agreement for capillary pattern analysis Level of evidence: moderate
Bisschops R Endoscopy 2018 (7) [182]	Observational prospective study To create a new classification for differentiating between neoplastic and neoplastic polyps and endoscopic features using the new BLI To assess inter-observer agreement among the participating endoscopists for the final descriptors	A video library of 48 videos/images prospectively collected (with and without optical magnification)	7experienced endoscopists	Inter-observer variability for the final descriptors using -chance correlated coefficient (AC1) with and without magnification	Inter-observer agreement was almost perfect for mucus (AC1 0.92 with and 0.88 without optical magnification) substantial for the regular /irregular surface (AC1 0.67 with and 0.66 without magni) For pit pattern ACI was good 0.9 with and 0.8 without magni and round/non round (AC1 0.77 with and 0.69 without optical magni) but less consistent for the homogeneity of distribution. Agreement was almost perfect for the vessel domain (AC1 0.81 and 0,85)	A high concordance among the observers was shown for most of the descriptors. Optical magnification had a beneficial effect in terms of interobserver agreement for most of the descriptors Level of evidence: moderate
i-SCAN						
lacucci M Endoscopy	Prospective observational study oo develop a simplified polyp classification. To evaluate its performance in	First phase: 21 prospective video library clips Second phase 80	Eight experienced endoscopists Six trainees	Inter-observer variability between experts and trainees to predict polyp	The k agreement of polyp histology diagnosis using the SIMPLE classification improved from 0.46 ( 95% CI 0.30 -0.64) before training	Inter-observer agreement improved in the post test training with a moderate

2018 (8)	predicting polyps histology	videos		histology before and	to 0.66 (95% CI 0.48-082) after	agreement when using SIMPLE
	To evaluate the reproducibility by			after training	training	classification
[188]	trainees using multiplatform	Training module				
	systems					Level of evidence: moderate
Smith S Dig	RCT inferiority trial	78 videos clips from	Sixteen Trainees	inter-observer	The inter-observer agreement	The inter-observer variability
Endosc	to evaluate the performance of	an existing library		agreement between	improves when using SIMPLE from	after a well-designed training
2019 (9)	self-training vs. didactic training,	(48 iSCAN OE and 30		trainees before and	0.35 (95%Cl 0.29-0.42) to a	module significantly improves
2010 (0)	to increase the diagnostic	NBI)		after self-learning or	moderate agreement of 0.52 (95%	with a moderate agreement
[197]	accuracy of diminutive/small			face to face training	CI 0.45-0.61) p<0.0001	between the trainees in post
[107]	colonic polyp histological			module		training when using NICE and
	prediction by trainees.					SIMPLE classification. SIMPLE
						having a higher Kappa agreement
						after NICE
						Level of evidence: high
**Table 17s** Summary of the evidence from diagnostic accuracy studies for predicting CRC and deep submucosal invasion with virtual and dye-based chromoendoscopy *in vivo* (studies with still images are not included)

Author, publication, vear	Country, Study design, study objective	Intervention	Participants	Outcomes	Results	Notes, conclusions
[Reference no. in Guideline]						
Puig et al., 2019 [194]	Spain, prospective multicenter diagnostic accuracy study, 58 endoscopists; NICE classification for predicting deep submucosal invasion	NBI without magnification (NICE classification)	2136 superficial lesions > 10 mm from 1650 patients	Sensitivity, Specificity, PPV, NPV, AUC	Sensitivity was 58.4% (95% CI, 47.5–68.8), specificity 96.4% (95% CI, 95.5–97.2), positive- predictive value 41.6% (95% CI, 32.9–50.8), negative- predictive value of 98.1% (95% CI, 97.5–98.7), and AUC 0.77 (95% CI, 0.72–0.83) A conditional inference tree that included all variables found the NICE classification to most accurately identify lesions with deep invasion (P < 0.001). However, pedunculated morphology (P < 0.007), ulceration (P 0.026), depressed areas (P < .001), or nodular mixed type (P < 0.001) affected accuracy of identification.	The study shows a decision tree combining the NICE classification and some morphologies for predicting deep submucosal invasion and endoscopic management.
Kawaguti FS, et	Brazil, single center and single	Magnifying chromoendoscopy	123 lesions with high risk of	Sensitivity, Specificity,	Pit pattern classification had 73.3% sensitivity, 100%	Single endoscopist previously trained

al., 2019 [208]	endoscopist; retrospective diagnostic accuracy study for predicting deep submucosal invasion	(Kudo pit pattern classification)	submucosal invasion (non- pedunculated polyps < 20 mm, lateral spreading tumors and depressed lesions)	Accuracy, PPV, NPV	specificity, 100% positive predictive value, 96.4% negative predictive value, and 96.7% accuracy to predict depth of invasion	in Japan
Kobayashi et al., 2019 [207]	Japan, single center retrospective study of prospective records of colonoscopy; diagnostic accuracy of JNET type 1, 2A, 2B and 3.	Magnifying NBI (JNET classification)	1558 superficial lesions	Sensitivity, Specificity, Accuracy, PPV, NPV	JNET type 3 had a 35% sensitivity, 100% specificity, 98% accuracy, 93% positive predictive value and 98% negative predictive value for predicting deep submucosal invasion.	Authors conclude that type 2B requires further investigation using pit pattern diagnosis.
Backes et al., 2018 [200]	Ine Netherlands, multicenter prospective study; diagnostic accuracy study for predicting T1 CRC and unresectable lesions (i.e. T1 with deep submucosal invasion); a risk score chart was developed and validated	NBI Without magnification (Hiroshima classification)	pedunculated polyps	Secificity, Accuracy, NPV, PPV	Sensitivity and specificity for optical diagnosis of T1 CRC were 78.7% (95% Cl, 64.3 - 89.3) and 94.2% (95% Cl, 90.9 - 96.6). Sensitivity and specificity for optical diagnosis of endoscopically unresectable lesions (ie, T1 CRC with deep invasion) were 63.3% .(95% Cl, 43.9 - 80.1) and 99.0% (95% ci 97.1 to 100.0). A LASSO-derived model using white light and NBI features discriminated T1 CRCs from non-invasive polyps with a cross-validation area under the curve (AUC) of 0.85 (95%,	47 cancers were found (36 T1 and 11 ≥T2)

					CI 0.80 to 0.90).	
Backes et al. 2017 r [198] 4 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	Systematic review and meta-analysis including 6 studies with magnifying NBI and 10 studies with magnifying chromoendoscopy for predicting deep submucosal invasion (14 studies were performed in Japan, 1 in Korea and 1 in China)	Magnifying NBI (Sano's classification, Hiroshima classification, microvessel pattern ir regular and non- dense, microvessel pattern irregular/sparse, microvessel and surface pattern irregular/absent, microsurface pattern absent) Magnifying chromoendoscopy (Kudo pit pattern Vn, Vi in a demarcated area)	13856 lesions	Sensitivity and Specificity	Pooled sensitivity and specificity of magnifying NBI for predicting deep submucosal invasion were 0.76 (95% Cl, 0.62–0.86) and 0.98 (95% Cl, 0.94–1.00) Pooled sensitivity and specificity of magnifying chromoendoscopy for predicting deep submucosal invasion were 0.79 (95% Cl 0.69–0.86 and 0.95 (95% Cl, 0.88–0.98	This table shows only the subanalyses with studies in real time. The study also shows the sensitivity and and specificity for predicting CRC including studies with still images: 0.85 (95% Cl, 0.75– 0.91) and 0.94 (0.82–0.98) for magnifying NBI, and 0.90 (95% Cl, 0.83–0.94) and 0.96 (95% Cl, 0.89– 0.99) for magnifying chromoendoscopy. No subanalysis with real time studies is provided.

## Table 18s Table of evidence: Artificial intelligence in polyp detection studies

Wang et al. Gut 2019 [231]	Prospective Random Order Open Label Single colonoscopy Single center Role of a high-performance real-time automatic polyp detection system in increasing PDR and ADR	2 groups: - Computer aided detection (CAD) colonoscopy - Standard HD colonoscopy	Average risk Sample size calculation 1058 patients	Adenoma detection rate Polyp detection rate Mean polpy per colonoscopy Mean adenoma per colonoscopy	ADR Standard 0.20 vs CAD 0.29; OR 1.61 95% Cl 1.21-2.13; p=<0.001 PDR Standard 0.29 vs CAD 0.45; OR 1.99 95%Cl 1.53-2.54; p= <0.001 MPPC Standard 0.50 vs CAD 0.95; (Fold change: 1.89 95%Cl 1.63- 2.19) p= <0.001 MAPC Standard 0.30 vs CAD 0.53 (Fold change: 1.72 95% Cl 1.41- 2.08) p= <0.001	Moderate/high quality In a low ADR endoscopists population, an CAD colonoscopy increased ADR, especially diminutive adenomas. The cost-benefit ratio of such effects has to be determined further.
Urban et al. Gastroenterology 2018 [227]	Training and testing of deep convolutional neural networks (CNN). Model testing on colonoscopy videos previously visioned by expert endoscopists that identified and labelled all visible polpys.	Findings of CNN compared to findings from CNN assisted expert reviews.	8641 colonoscopy images from >2000 patients 20 videos 20 hours 500'000 frames	Accuracy Area under curve	Accuracy 96,4% ±0.3% AUC 0.991 ±0.001	Moderate/high quality CNN identified polyps with a high cross- validation accuracy of and an area under the receiver operating characteristic curve of 0.991.
Figueireido et al. Endoscopy International Open [232]	3 different methods of CAD: 2 binary classifiers and threshold methods and 1 machine learning method. Assess the efficacy of CAD in detection of colonic polyps in video colonoscopy.	2 groups: - Frames containing polyps - Frames containing normal mucosa	42 patients 40 frames 1680 polyp instances 1360 normal mucosa frames	Sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of Methods 1, 2 and 3	Method 1         Sensitivity         83.7% [95%CI (80.9%-86.3%)]         Specificity         66.6% [95%CI (63.1%-70.3%)]         Accuracy         74.3% [95%CI (72.0%-76.5%)]         Method 2         Sensitivity         61.6% [95%CI (72.0%-76.5%)]         Method 2         Sensitivity         61.6% [95%CI (57.8%-65.4%)]         Specificity         61.3% [95%CI (57.8%-64.9%)]         Accuracy         63.2% [95%CI (60.8%-65.7%)]         Method 3 (local binary pattern + polyp detection function)	Moderate quality CAD methods used can detect polyps with a reasonable accuracy. Further work is necessary, by applying the algorithms in real time.

	Sensitivity	
	99.7% [95%CI (99.3%-100%)]	
	Specificity	
	79.6% [95%Cl (76.5%-82.5%)]	
	Accuracy	
	90.1% [95%CI (88.60 %-91.6%)]	

## **Table 19s** Evidence table for AI in characterisation of colonic polyps and early cancers

Author, Publication, Year [Reference no. in Guideline]	Study design and Objective	Intervention	Participants	Outcomes	Results	Level of Evidence, Conclusions
Byrne MF et al. Gut 2019 [233]	Develop and test polyp characterization algorithm	Deep learning algorithm for polyp characterization	Videos of 125 diminutive polyps with known pathology	Classification as adenoma or hyperplastic polyp	Accuracy 94% (95% CI 86% to 97%) Sensitivity adenomas 98% (95% CI 92% to 100%) Specificity 83% (95% CI 67% to 93%) NPV 97%, PPV predictive value 90%.	Low Quality Good accuracy, Ex vivo demonstration of accuracy, no sessile serrated polyps, single operator, single centre
Chen PJ et al. Gastroenterology 2018 [234]	Develop and test polyp characterization algorithm	Deep learning algorithm for polyp characterization	1476 images of neoplastic polyps and 681 images of hyperplastic polyps	Classification as neoplastic or hyperplastic polyp	96.3% sensitivity, 78.1% specificity, PPV of 89.6%, NPV of 91.5%	Low Quality Good diagnostic performance, Ex vivo demonstration of accuracy, single centre
Mori Y et al., Ann Intern Med 2018 [235]	Test polyp characterization algorithm in vivo	Computer aided diagnosis of endocytoscopic images with NBI or methylene blue staining	Patients attending for colonsocopy in 18 centres in Japan, 466 polyps	Classification versus pathology	pathologic prediction rate 98.1% NPVs diminutive rectosigmoid adenomas 93.7-96.5%	High quality Good performance. Clinical testing in mutli-centre, multi-operator real time study
Misawa M et al. Int J Comput Assist Radiol Surg 2017 [236]	Test polyp characterization algorithm	Computer aided diagnosis of endocytoscopic images with NBI	173 polyp images	Classification neoplastic vs non- neoplastic	Overall diagnostic accuracy similar to experts (87.8 vs 84.2%)	Low quality Expert performance, Single centre, ex vivo
Ichimasa K et al., Endoscopy 2018 [237]	Develop and test algorithm to predict lymph node metastasis in T1 colorectal cancers	Deep learning algorithm for lymph node metastasis	690 cases of T1 CRC	Prediction of LMN versus American, European and Japanese guidelines	Sensitivity 100%, specificity 66-0%; accuracy vs guidelines 69-9%. Unnecessary surgery 77% vs 85-91% for guidelines	Low quality Moderate performance. Single centre, retrospective
Ito N et al. Oncology 2019 [238]	Develop and test algorithm to predict deep invasion in T1 colorectal cancers	Deep learning algorithm for T1b invasion	190 images from 41 T1 CRC	Classification T1is / T1a versus T1b	cT1b sensitivity 67.5% specificity 89.0%, accuracy 81.2%, AUC 0.871.	Very low quality Moderate performance, small dataset, single centre, ex vivo