

Portsmouth Regional Hospital
Cancer Program
Staging Report on Colon Cancer

By Dr. Prashant Shankar, Oncologist

Approximately 106,170 new cases of colon cancer are diagnosed annually in the US [1]. Surgical resection is the only curative treatment for locoregional disease, and five-year survival rates are stage dependant

Stage IIIA (T1-2N1) -83 percent

Stage IIIB (T3-4N1) -64 percent

Stage IIIC (N2)-44 percent

For patients who have undergone potentially curative resection, disease recurrence is thought to arise from clinically occult micrometastases that are present at the time of surgery. The goal of postoperative (adjuvant) therapy is to eradicate these micrometastases, thereby increasing the cure rate.

Adjuvant systemic therapy is recommended after resection of node-positive colon cancer (**Grade 1A**). Typically a six month course of FOLFOX (oxaliplatin plus 5-FU and Leucovorin, with short-term infusional 5-FU) is recommended. 5-FU plus Leucovorin (5-FU/LV) or capecitabine monotherapy is used in patients who are unlikely to tolerate oxaliplatin (**Grade 1A**). For patients who have a contraindication to oxaliplatin (e.g., preexisting neuropathy), a six to eight month course of 5-FU/LV is an acceptable option.

We analyzed data from 9 patients who were treated at our institution for Stage III colon cancer. All of them had appropriate treatment with colectomy and lymph node dissection. Of these, 1 patient had

Stage III A, 3 had

Stage IIIB and 5 had Stage IIIC. Post-surgical treatment regarding follow-up at our Oncology Center and hospital was available for 4 of these patients. Others were either seen at other centers or did not come back for follow up care. Of these 4, 2 had Stage IIIC. I had a Stage IIIA and one on post-surgical staging was upstaged to Stage IV. Of the 3 Stage III patients, all were given FOLFOX adjuvant therapy.

It is therefore our conclusion that all patients received appropriate surgical treatment. Of the patients who were evaluated at our hospital/Center, for Adjuvant therapy, all were treated with standard of care adjuvant therapy.