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**INTRODUCTION**

Colon cancer has been reported to occur early in certain African regions, but the understanding of the genetic modifications leading to early disease is incomplete. Here we present a study cases of early colon cancer and genetic modifications leading to these tumors in Ethiopia.

**METHODS**

- We evaluated all colon masses detected between 2015 and 2018 at Black Lion Hospital, Addis Ababa. Clinical, endoscopic and pathology descriptions were assessed for all cases 30 years old or younger.
- None of the cases reported a family history of colon cancer or had evidence of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).
- Subsets of pathology block-tissues were evaluated for genetic modifications via Multiplex Ligation-dependent Probe Amplification.

**RESULTS**

- A total of 38 cases of colon cancer ages 30 or earlier were identified.
- These represented 13% of all cases of colon cancer in the 3-year period.
- The median age was 27 years (IQR 27-30).

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**DISCUSSION**

- We report a high incidence of early colon cancer in Ethiopia with no family history or IBD.
- Early-onset CRC contributes to the significant morbidity, mortality and overall healthcare burden of CRC in low-resource countries. Further research is needed to determine if the understanding of these epigenetic variables would influence the diagnosis and management of CRC in Sub-Saharan Africa.