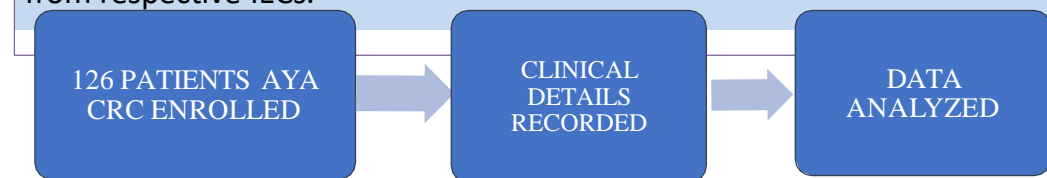


Background

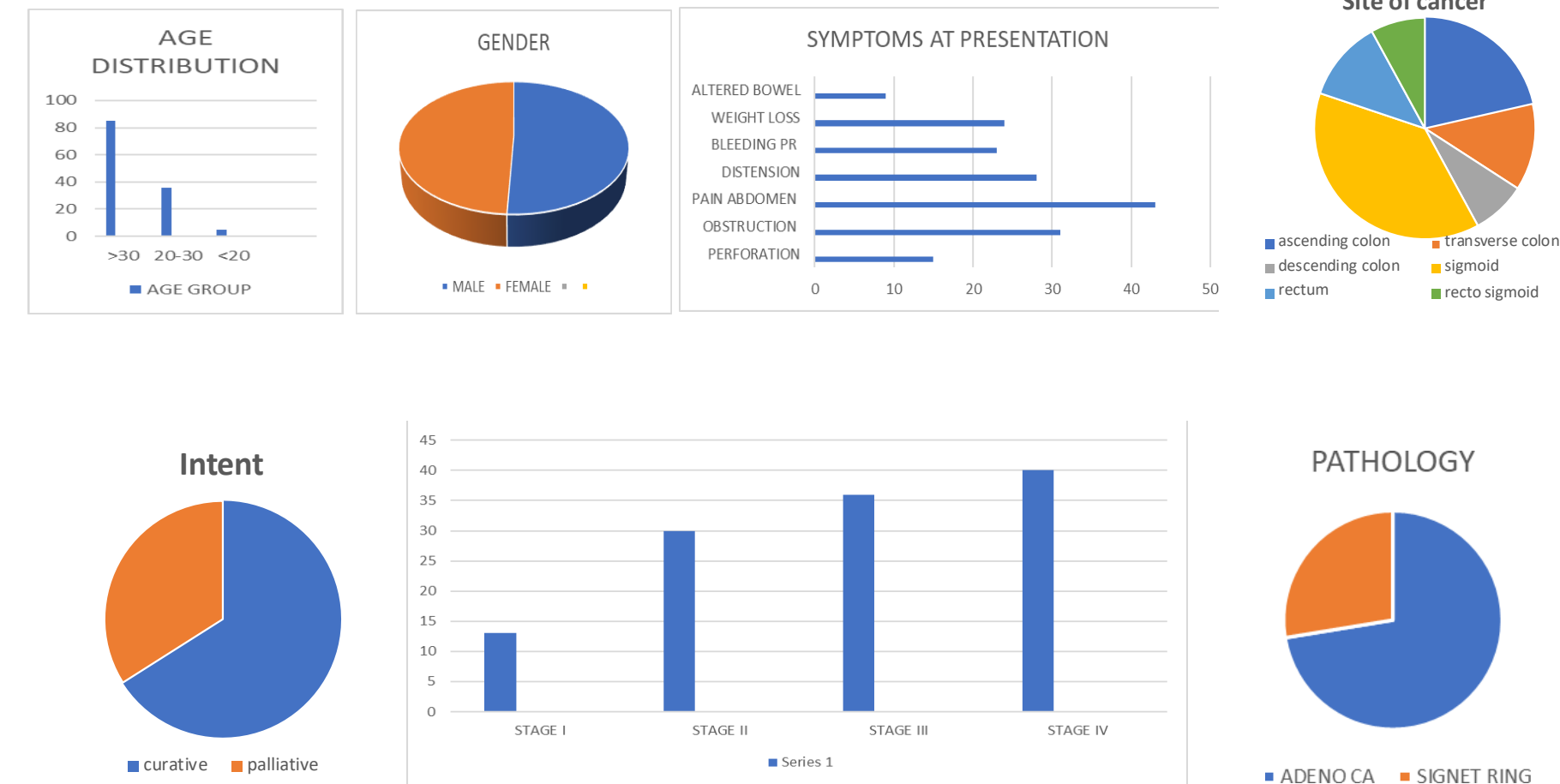
- Analysis from various Indian cancer registries (ICMR) project roughly two hundred thousand new AYA (Adolescents and young adults) cases in 2025.¹
- Colorectal cancer(CRC) has high incidence in this age group.
- The complex psychological, social and financial impact of a cancer diagnosis is unique to AYA age group.
- A multicentre study in India will help us identify the distribution of AYA CRC according to clinical profile, pathological profile, patterns of care provided, and survival trends.

Methods

This study was a multicentre retrospective registry conducted over the period of 3 years, from January 2018 to December 2020, after approval from respective IECs.



Outcomes



Results/Findings

- There was no particular gender predisposition for colorectal cancer amongst this age group with 64 patients (50.79%) being male and 62 female (49.2%).
- 85 patients (67.46%) were above the age 30 years, with an average age of 32.6 years.
- The commonest presentation in Indian population was abdominal pain and distension present in 43 (34%) patients, obstruction in 31(24%) patients, and bleeding per rectum in 28 (22.22%) patients.
- Adenocarcinoma was present in 82 (65.08%) patients, Signet Ring Histology in 34 patients (26%) and Other histologies were present in ten (7.94%) patients.
- MSI was done only in Eight (6.35%) patients, whereas KRAS, NRAS, and BRAF were tested only in 4 (0.79%)patients.
- Most common sub-location was the rectum and rectosigmoid; cancer at this site was present in 25 (38%) patients.
- 79 patients (62.6%) presented with stage I to III disease, whereas 40 patients (31.75%) presented with stage IV disease.
- 84 (66.6%) of the patients were taken up for curative intent, whereas the rest patients were taken up for treatment with palliative intent.
- CAPOX was the most commonly used chemo regimen irrespective of the treatment intent (neoadjuvant, adjuvant, or palliative) in a total of 85 patients (67%)
- Median OS in palliative patients was 33 months.
- Median DFS in curative patients with rectal cancer was 18 months
- 2-year DFS in curative patients with colon cancer was 74%.
- Overall, in curative patients, the median OS was not reached.

Median OS in Palliative patients	33 months with 95% CI from 18 to 47 months
Median Disease free survival in curative patients	Not reached

Discussion

It is well-established world over, that the AYA CRC has a distinct clinicopathological profile as compared to older adults. As is the worldwide trend², most of the cancers observed were left-sided i.e., arising from the sigmoid, rectum, or rectosigmoid. The incidence of signet ring histology in our AYA CRC patients is also higher than that is seen in late-onset CRC patients worldwide. (26% vs. 11%)³ Lack of access to molecular profiling has been observed in most of our patients, leaving many unanswered questions, especially regarding Microsatellite Instability and alterations in the RAS pathway in Indian patients. In curative patients of colon cancer, the 2-year DFS of our patients is 74 % which is comparable to western data (ACCENT database)⁴ in which a 5-year DFS of 68% was observed in patients less than 40 years. An impressive Overall Survival of 33 months was noted in palliative patients of colorectal cancer, even though most of our patients did not have access to immune oncological drugs or monoclonal antibodies.

Conclusions

As per our knowledge, this study is one of the first multicentre collaborative study from an LMIC related to clinic- pathological profile of AYA CRC patients. Most such patients present in non-metastatic stage and potentially receive curative therapy. However, only a small minority could get MSI/mutational profiling. Would better access to immuno- oncological drugs and monoclonal antibodies translate to better survival outcomes needs to be studied further.

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Participating Institutes:



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Here median survival time could not be calculated as more than 50% of patients survived at the analysis time.