THE EVOLUTION IN THE TREATMENT OF COLORECTAL CARCINOMA

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The work described was primarily performed within the Discipline of Medicine of the University of Adelaide
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ABSTRACT

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a significant health problem in the community with nearly 4000 patients dying each year in Australia. Subsequently there is an ongoing need to improve diagnosis and treatment. Over the last 15 years, significant advances have been made with improvements in screening methods, diagnostic accuracy with modern radiological techniques, surgical interventions including resection of liver and lung metastasis, and improvements in the systemic therapy for patients, both in the post/perioperative and metastatic setting. The aim of the research projects presented here has been to both add to and further complement the development and improvements in care for CRC. The areas covered in this thesis are as follows; combination chemotherapy, specifically with mitomycin C, combination chemotherapy and anti-VEGF (bevacizumab), anti-EGFR therapy, development of biomarkers for anti-EGFR and anti-VEGF therapy, combination chemotherapy in stage III CRC, and finally analysis of registry data assessing changes and patterns of care in the community. The final section of this research also assesses the impact that advances reported in clinical trials have had on normal clinical practice.