Caring for Patients with Colorectal Cancer

1. During Endoscopy Procedures
   Pathologists enable more accurate cancer detection by evaluating in-vivo microscopic images and guiding endoscopists to the best biopsy site.

2. Following Surgery
   The pathologist examines the specimen grossly and records key details, including tumor size, distance to the resection margin, and extent of involvement (including lymph node identification).

3. After Specimen is Processed
   The pathologist examines the slides under a microscope, recording key prognostic information, including type of cancer, depth of invasion into the colonic wall, presence of tumor in vessels, and spread to lymph nodes.

4. After Reporting
   The pathologist selects an appropriate tissue block specimen for special stains and molecular studies.

5. Follow-Up Testing
   Specialized testing may be required based on the individual patient for mismatch repair proteins, hereditary colon cancer genes, and other mutations, including BRAFV600E and K-RAS. These results help oncologists choose appropriate drugs for treatment.

The Pathologist’s Impact

Digital Content Committee

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