



Did you know?

...that early-onset ulcerative colitis (UC) has been associated with an increased risk of colorectal cancer (CRC) and longer 5-ASA use reduced this risk?

In a Korean nationwide population-based study, the risk of CRC was lower overall for UC vs the general population, but increased in early-onset UC (age <40 years)¹

Age	Risk for UC vs general population, HR	
≤19 years	14.37	overall 0.74
20–39 years	2.74	
40–59 years	0.58	
≥60 years	0.70	

A longer duration of 5-ASA use was also found to decrease the risk of CRC:	Quartile of use	Adjusted HR
	1 st	1
	2 nd	0.40
	3 rd	0.48
	4 th	0.30

30,546 UC patients (diagnosed 2006–2015) and 88,829 age- and sex-matched individuals without UC; mean follow-up 5.2 and 5.3 years, respectively

These findings highlight the importance of surveillance colonoscopy, particularly in patients diagnosed with UC at a young age, and supports the role of mesalazine in chemoprevention^{1–3}

5-ASA: 5-aminosalicylic acid; CRC: colorectal cancer; HR: hazard ratio; UC: ulcerative colitis

1. Kim HM et al. Scand J Gastroenterol 2021;56(11):1279–85.

2. Lyakhovich A et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2010;31(2):202–9.

3. O'Connor A et al. Inflamm Bowel Dis 2015;21(11):2562–9.