

Stage III Colon Cancer at Monongalia General Hospital

Monongalia General Hospital (MGH) is applying for accreditation as a comprehensive cancer center to the Commission on Cancer at American College of Surgeons. As a part of the credentialing process the hospital has to review trends and characteristics of different types of cancer and compare it to benchmarks from the National Cancer Data Base. This year the cancer committee at MGH elected to review stage III colon cancer.

Colon cancer is one of the most common types of cancer that can affect the general population. Colonoscopy is currently the recommended screening method for early detection. Colon cancer is reported in different stages, I to IV. Stage III colon cancer is defined as positive lymph nodes. The lymph nodes are present around every organ system. When surgery is done the lymph nodes are removed and studied to see if they contain any cancer cells. This is the first phase of cancer spread in the body. It indicates a high risk of metastases (distant spread to other organs). Chemotherapy is usually recommended to decrease the risk of metastases and improve cure rate.

In the cancer registry at Monongalia General Hospital we reviewed the colon cancer cases from 2007 until 2011; a total of 250 cases were identified and 56 of them were identified as stage III colon cancer. This represents 22% of all stages of colon cancer and it is comparable to the national average (which is 23%). Sex distribution at MGH is 59% female and 41% male. There is a higher female distribution at MGH. In the national registry the gender distribution is typically 50-50. In the older population, however, there is more prevalence in women. For instance, in the eighth decade the female to male distribution is 60-40 and in the ninth decade the female to male distribution is 70-30. This observation is not explainable at this point.

The recommended guidelines for surgery are to remove as many lymph nodes as possible. Current guidelines recommend at least 12 lymph nodes be removed. At MGH 10 out of 56 patients identified with stage III colon cancer had less than 12 lymph nodes removed. However it is to note that those guidelines are fairly recent. The data from MGH are compiled from 2007 until 2011. The suboptimal lymph node removal reflects early cases (2007-2008). Most recent surgeries at MGH have been compliant to standard and had more than 12 lymph nodes removed.

Chemotherapy is also recommended as treatment for stage III colon cancer to decrease the risk of distant metastases and improve cure rate. Thirteen patients out of 56 did not receive chemotherapy, for an average of 23%. Nationally 12% of patients are reported to be treated with surgery without chemotherapy. MGH numbers are higher than the national average. It is to note that with three patients at MGH chemotherapy was contraindicated due to risk factors, five patients refused, and one died before therapy could be administered. This would have definitely skewed the findings.

The improvements that were made in 2012 to support and enhance clinical care of the patient population were as follows;

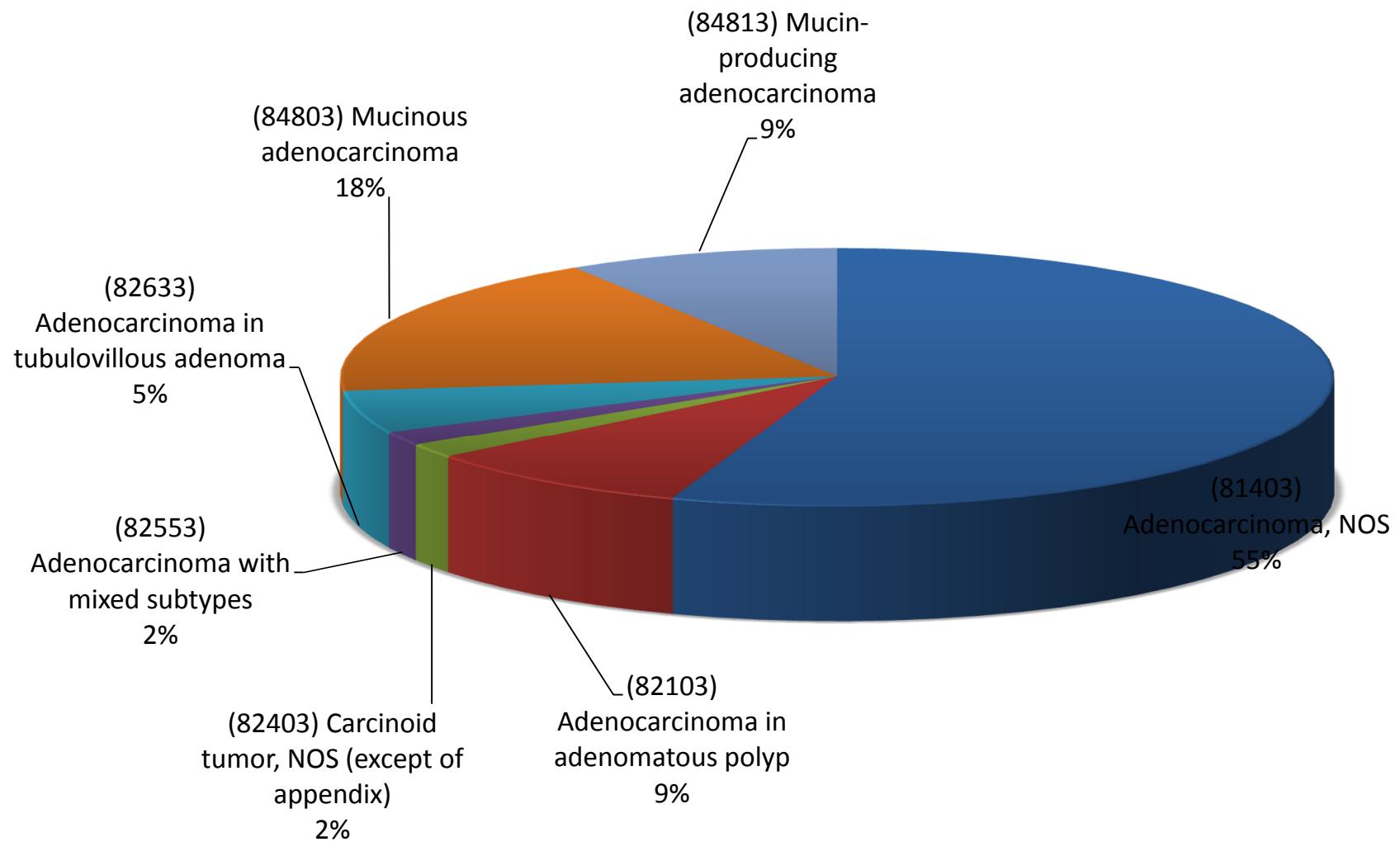
- We converted to the Folfox 6 protocol during the year
- We instituted the position of a Patient Navigator and she was able to meet with all new colon cancer patients to initiate the education process and allow for follow up
- With changes in team nursing in the Infusion room education was reinforced with each visit on a consistent bases allowing better symptom management and continuity of care

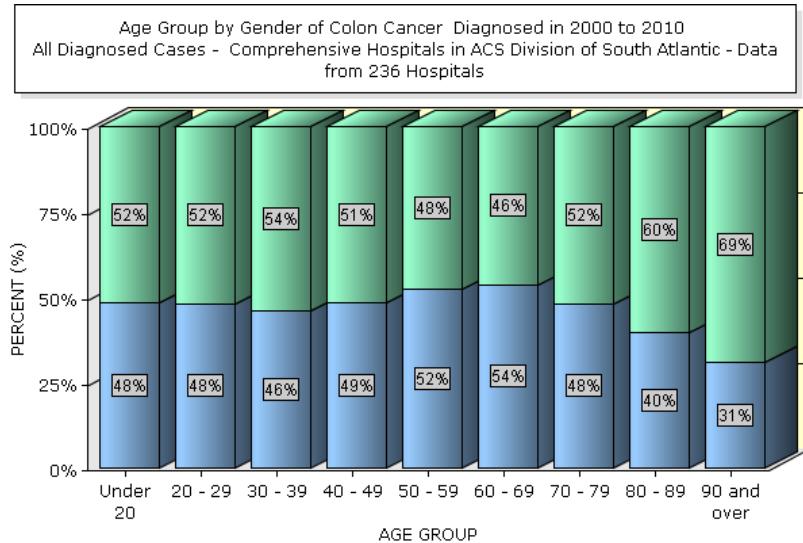
- The Oncology practice moved to the Hospital as a provider based clinic in November of 2011 so we had a full year of the Clinic practice being on site enhancing communications and simplifying services.
- With all services on site there was enhanced services from the Multidisciplinary clinical team
- A support group was instituted in 2012 for all patients.

In conclusion, the trend of stage III colon at Monongalia General Hospital is comparable to the national average. The cancer committee at MGH will continue to monitor incidence and treatment trends to ensure best practices. The findings will be published on our website.

John Azar, MD, FACP
Oncology Medical Director,
Monongalia General Hospital

Mon General Hospital
Stage 3 Colon Cancers
2007-2011
Histology Behavior





Age Group by Gender of Colon Cancer Diagnosed in 2000 to 2010					
All Diagnosed Cases - Comprehensive Hospitals in ACS Division of South Atlantic - Data from 236 Hospitals					
Age Group	Gender	Male	Female	N	%
1. Under 20		48.5%	51.5%	33	100%
2. 20 - 29		48.4%	51.6%	256	100%
3. 30 - 39		46.2%	53.8%	1227	100%
4. 40 - 49		48.8%	51.2%	4797	100%
5. 50 - 59		52.4%	47.6%	11711	100%
6. 60 - 69		53.9%	46.1%	16148	100%
7. 70 - 79		48.2%	51.8%	18446	100%
8. 80 - 89		39.8%	60.2%	12373	100%
9. 90 and over		31%	69%	1961	100%
TOTAL		48.3%	51.7%	66952	100%

©2012 National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) / Commission on Cancer (CoC) / Developer: Florin Petrescu
Wednesday, December 12, 2012

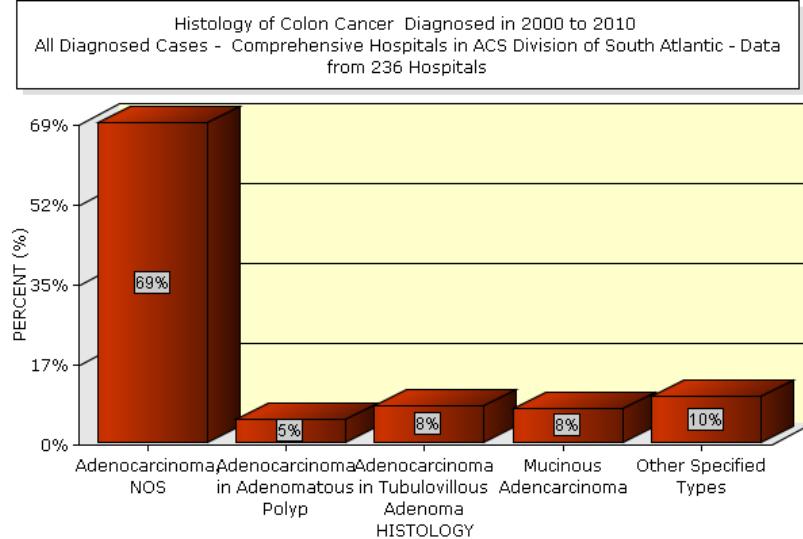


AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

NCDB

PUBLIC REPORTS



©2012 National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) / Commission on Cancer (CoC) / Developer: Florin Petrescu
Wednesday, December 12, 2012

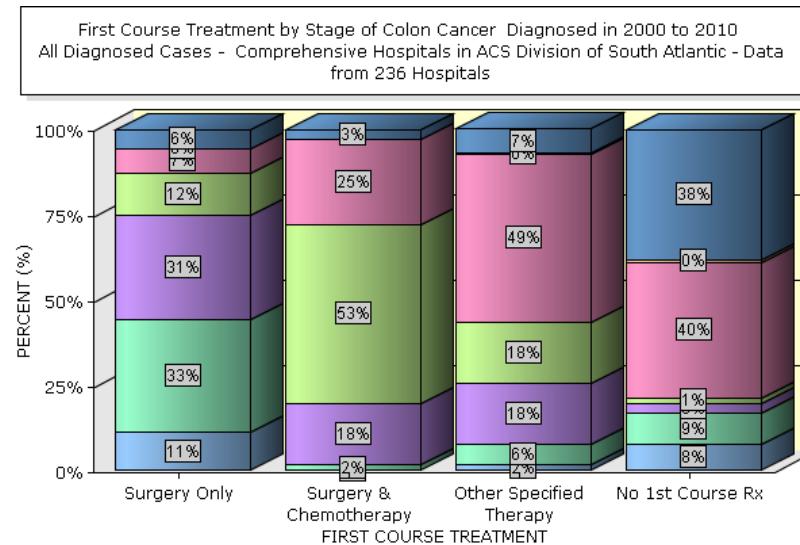


AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

*Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes*

NCDB

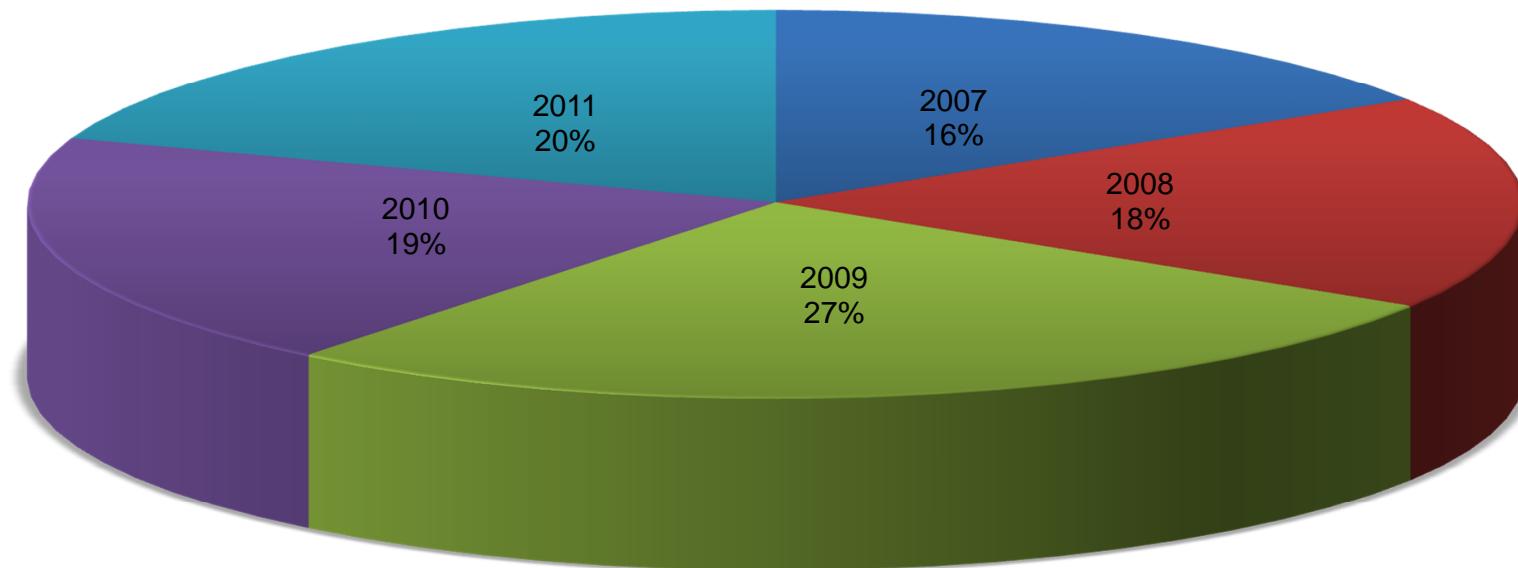
PUBLIC REPORTS

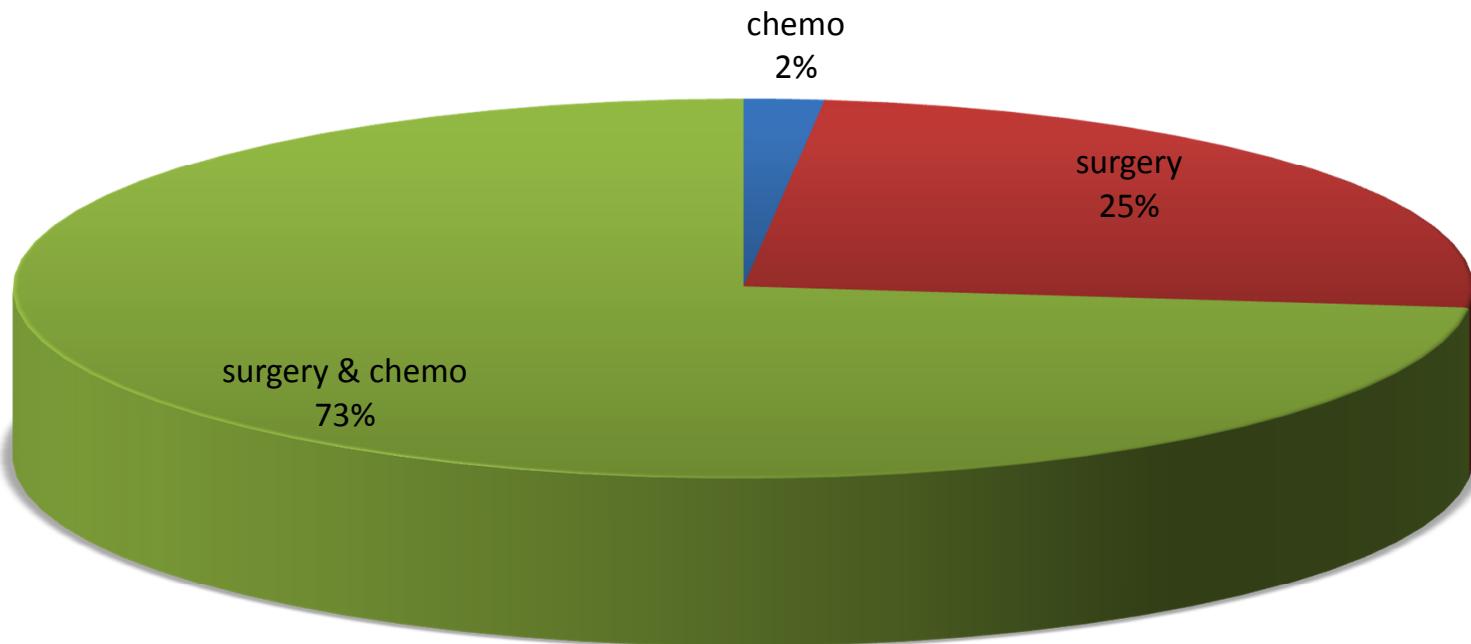


First Course Treatment by Stage of Colon Cancer Diagnosed in 2000 to 2010 All Diagnosed Cases - Comprehensive Hospitals in ACS Division of South Atlantic - Data from 236 Hospitals									
First Course Treatment	Stage							Totals	
	0	I	II	III	IV	NA	UNK	N	%
1. Surgery Only	11.4%	32.7%	30.7%	12.4%	7.1%	0.1%	5.5%	39595	100%
2. Surgery & Chemotherapy	0.2%	1.6%	17.7%	52.7%	25%	.	2.7%	19151	100%
3. Other Specified Therapy	1.9%	5.9%	17.8%	17.8%	49.4%	0.3%	7%	4196	100%
4. No 1st Course Rx	7.6%	9.2%	3%	1.3%	40%	0.5%	38.3%	4010	100%
TOTAL	7.4%	20.7%	24.5%	23.6%	16.8%	0.1%	6.8%	66952	100%

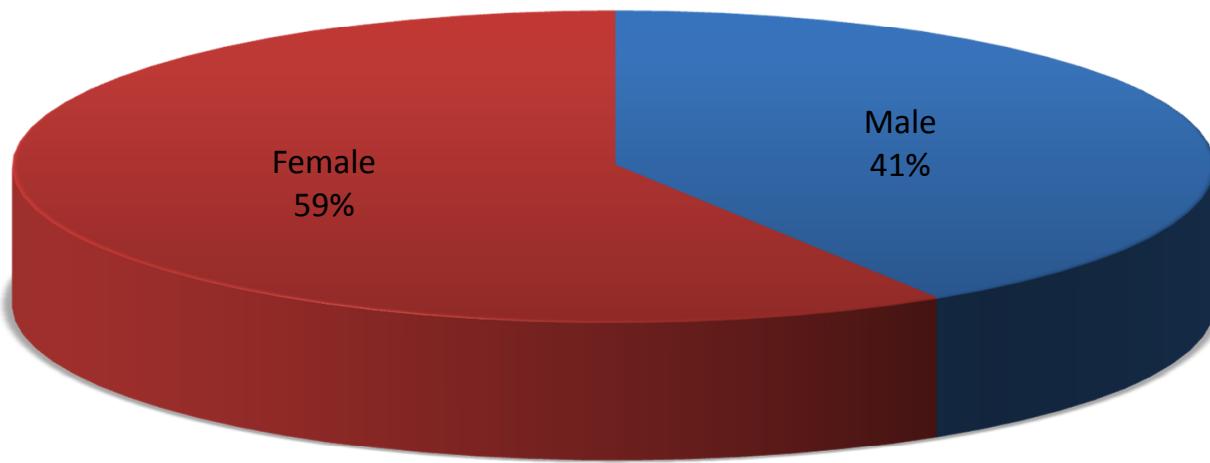
©2012 National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) / Commission on Cancer (CoC) / Developer: Florin Petrescu
Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mon General Hospital
Stage 3 Colon Cancers
2007-2011
Year First Seen This Prim

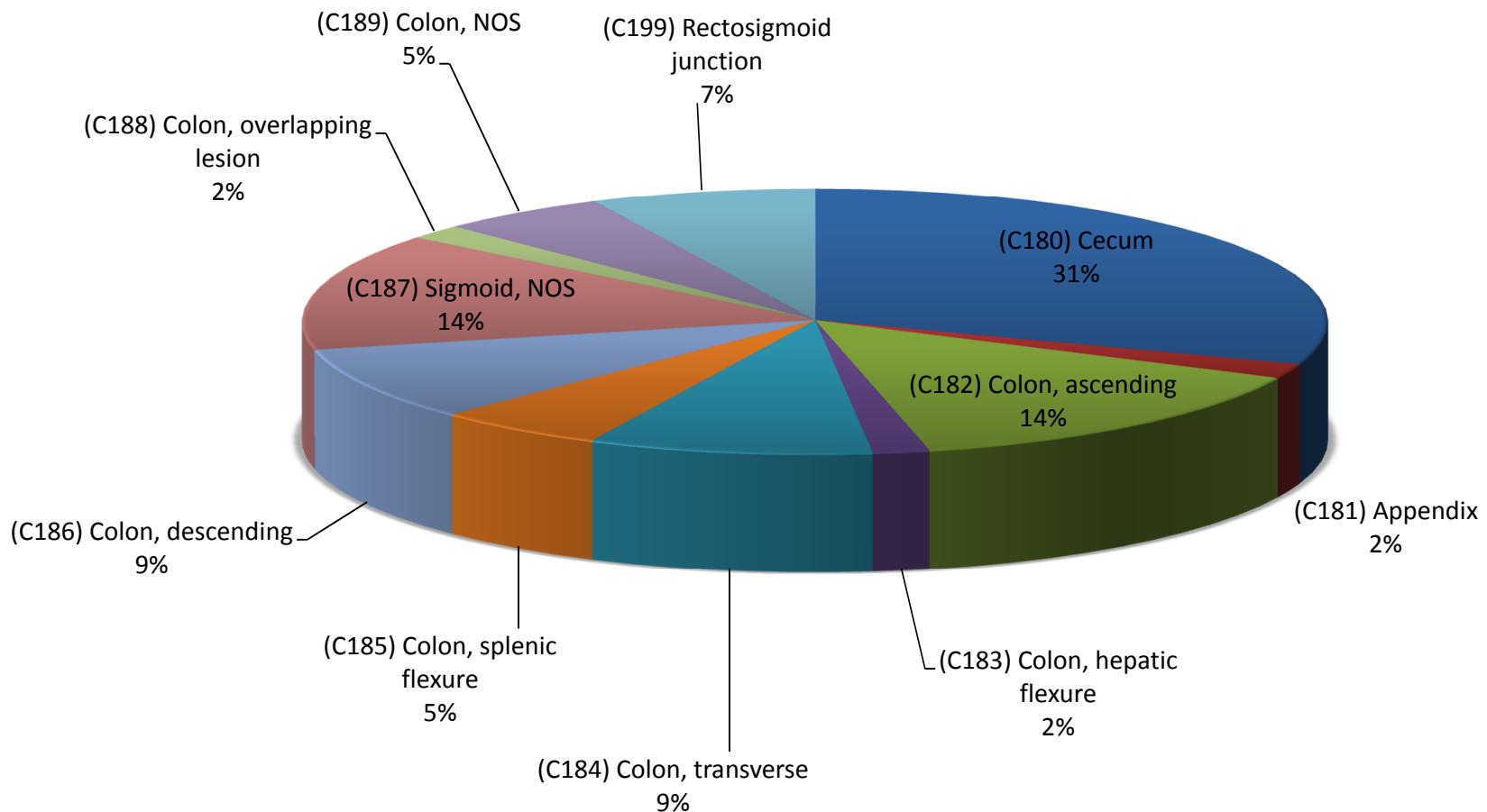




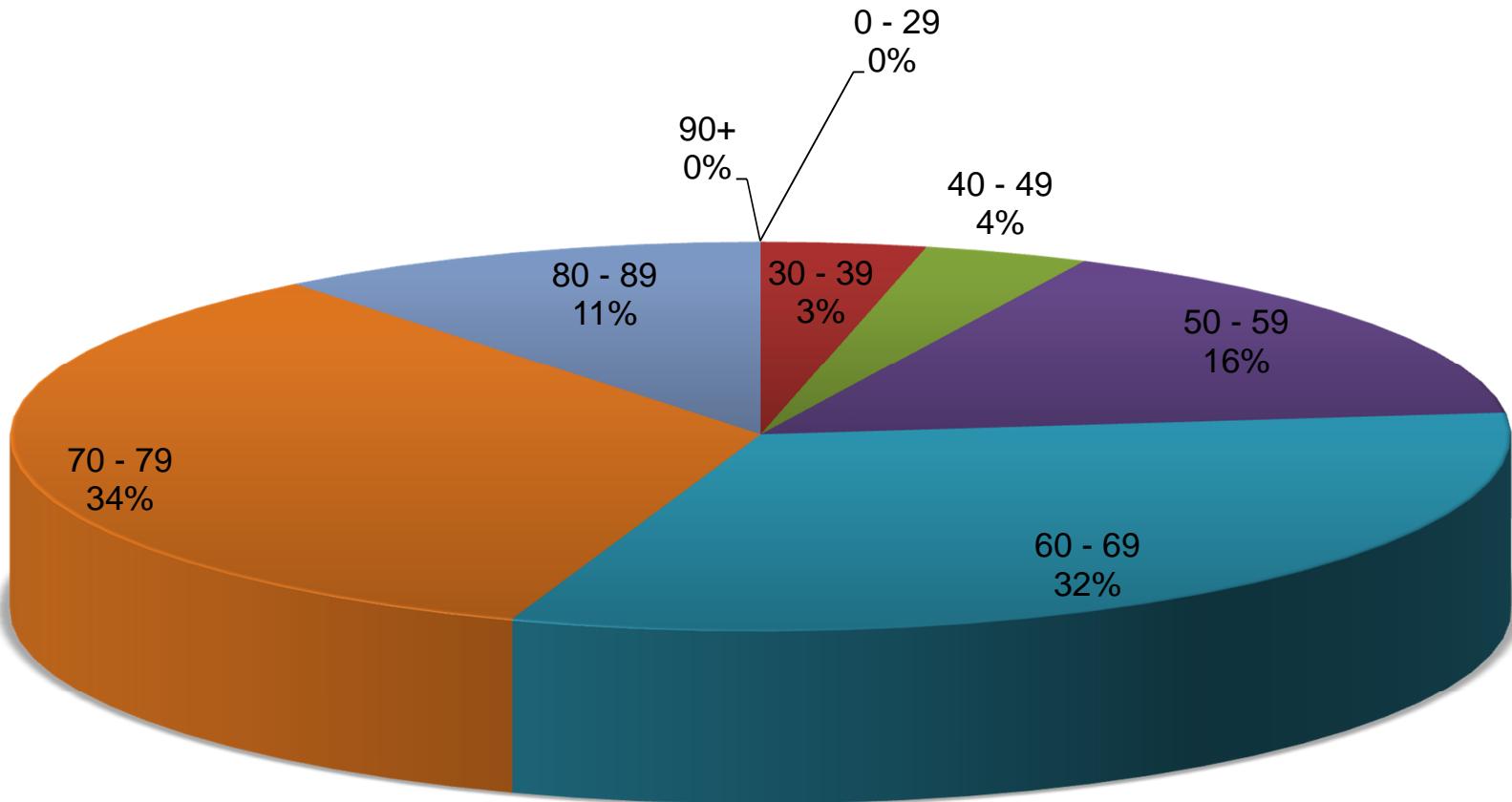
Mon General Hospital
Stage 3 Colon Cancers
2007-2011



Mon General Hospital
Stage 3 Colon Cancers
2007-2011



Mon General Hospital
Stage 3 Colon Cancers
2007-2011
Age at Diagnosis



Total 55 Cases