Reviewer's report

Title: Age and manifestation related symptoms in familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)

Version: 6 Date: 20 December 2004

Reviewer: Paul Rozen

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. The manuscript refers mainly to the experience accumulated in a Dept. of Surgery and they place emphasis on rectoscopy as the main diagnostic tool for rectal bleeding. However, a proportion of their patients were seen for anemia, possible occult bleeding which all require flexible endoscopy (colonoscopy). In their abstract, I suggest changing the word "rectoscopy" to "endoscopy" which would cover the above alternatives.

2. Abstract: line 2 - "view to IMPROVE early ..."

3. Abstract: line 3 - "limited TO where".

4. The tables are not in order. On page 5, the authors refer to Table 2 before Table 1. The table with the mutations should be Table 3.

5. Page 5, second to last line - The term "gastric gland polyps" is not usual. It should be either "gastric FUNDIC gland" polyps or just "gastric polyps".

6. Page 8, third to last line - the word "pronounced" is not clear. I assume they mean "predominant polyp manifestation".

7. In the text on several occasions they use the term "primary diagnosis". It would be clearer if they wrote "at time of first or primary diagnosis".

8. Page 11, line 2 - the authors place emphasis on rectoscopy as first line examination in young people. FAP is uncommon and IBD is more common in young people. Today, colonoscopy would seem more appropriate for the evaluation of colonic symptoms.

9. Tables - Table 1 should become Table 3. All tables need titles.

10. In Table 2 which should be Table 1, I suggest putting the rectal findings before the colon findings.

11. In Table 3 which should be Table 2, fix the title of gastric polyps.
12. In Table 1 which should be Table 3, add Years after Age.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.