Introduction: The National Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (NHBS CSP) aims to reduce mortality from bowel cancer in a defined population, by detecting cancer in asymptomatic individuals between 60 and 74 years. Current Government strategies are aimed at raising awareness of symptoms, to bring survival from cancer in England up to the average for Europe. This study aims to identify whether individuals with a FOBT +ve screening test are asymptomatic.

Methods: Data were extracted from the Bowel Cancer Screening System (BCSS) on FOBT +ve individuals diagnosed with cancer from commencement of the programme in 2006 to December 2011. This included all symptoms (one or more) reported at colonoscopy pre assessment, as captured by BCSS. The same data were extracted on a control group of FOBT +ve, colonoscopy negative individuals. In addition to examining trends in reported symptoms, data sets were also interrogated to look at those significant symptoms that if reported prior to the screening episode should have triggered a cancer two week wait (2WW) referral.

Results: 10 211 patient episodes with cancer (Male=6825, Female=3387) and 30 249 without cancer (Male=14 991, Female=15 258) were included in the analysis. Symptom data could not be verified with regard to recency, frequency or severity of symptoms or whether previously reported. Anxiety caused by a +ve screening test may itself heighten awareness of some symptoms however, the percentage reporting significant symptoms.

Conclusion: Although the NHBS CSP aims to detect asymptomatic cases, a large proportion of individuals were symptomatic at the time of screening, some were eligible for referral under the DH guidance for high risk symptoms of colorectal cancer. The Government’s drive to increase awareness of symptoms is necessary to prompt individuals to seek medical advice at an earlier stage. Standardising how data are captured at pre assessment will improve the quality and usefulness of the data strengthening future analysis on the impact of awareness campaigns on screening.

Abstract PWE-082 Table 1 Frequency of reported symptoms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Cancer (%)</th>
<th>Normal (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>926 (9.07)</td>
<td>4377 (14.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>2711 (26.55)</td>
<td>5093 (16.80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
<td>2245 (21.99)</td>
<td>7049 (23.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectal bleeding</td>
<td>5636 (55.20)</td>
<td>13266 (43.86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectal bleeding without anal irritation</td>
<td>3654 (35.78)</td>
<td>7534 (24.91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgency</td>
<td>2551 (24.98)</td>
<td>7667 (25.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucus</td>
<td>1571 (1.54)</td>
<td>3751 (12.40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss</td>
<td>1333 (13.05)</td>
<td>3801 (12.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency and diarrhoea and urgency</td>
<td>606 (5.93)</td>
<td>1321 (4.37)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant symptoms.

Competing interests: None declared.

REFERENCES
Methylation of the SFRP4 promoter was significantly (p=0.001) greater in biopsies from those at higher CRC risk. In addition, increasing age (a strong modulator of CRC risk) was significantly (p<0.001) associated with increased SFRP4 methylation.

**Conclusion** This study showed that SFRP4 methylation is significantly greater in macroscopically normal rectal biopsies from those at higher CRC risk. This aberrant epigenetic mark may be causal for CRC risk and further studies are needed to investigate whether methylation of SFRP4 is reversible by dietary and other interventions.

**Competing interests** None declared.

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**PWE-085 AGE-RELATED CHANGES IN DIVERTICULAR DISEASE ADMISSIONS IN SCOTTISH HOSPITALS 2000–2010**

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**Introduction** Recent studies suggest that acute admissions for diverticular disease (DD) are increasing in younger age groups. Verification of this trend in Scotland and examination of treatment patterns by age will help in the understanding of DD and may establish better hospital treatment pathways for DD patients.

**Methods** The Scottish Morbidity Record (SMR01) Linked Database was utilised to extract data on hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of DD (ICD-10 code K572-K579) from 2000 to 2010. These were categorised into three treatment groups: diagnostic (investigational), medical (ie, receiving medical therapy only) and surgical (ie, having an operation). For each group, the incidence of admissions was determined by year of admission and then stratified by age (<45, 45–54, 55–64, 65–74, 75–84 and 85+ years). Proportions of admissions by age group were determined.

**Results** Admissions for DD increased from 6591 in 2000 to 10 228 in 2010 (55%). The largest numerical increase (2957, 57.1%) was seen in diagnostic admissions, while the greatest percentage change was seen in medical admissions (688, 73.1%). Surgical interventions remained stable (Abstract PWE-085 table 1). There was little difference in the age-related incidence of diagnostic admissions between 2000 and 2010. In patients <55 years, medical admissions increased between 2000 and 2010 (17.6% [166/941] vs 25.7% [418/1629]). The proportion of surgical admissions in patients 55–64 years also increased (19.2% to 28.5%) but decreased in the 65–74 year group (29.1% to 22.9%). There was little change in admission types among other age groups between 2000 and 2010.

**Conclusion** DD admissions are increasing in Scotland due to rises in diagnostic and medical admissions. There was no age-related change in the proportion of diagnostic admissions between 2000 and 2010, but there was an increase in DD patients <55 years managed medically. There appeared to be a shift away from surgery in patients 65–74 years towards those in the age band 55–64 years.

**Competing interests** H Paterson Grant/Research Support from: Shire Pharmaceuticals Inc, I Amott Grant/Research Support from: Shire Pharmaceuticals Inc.

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**PWE-086 POLYPS MEASUREMENTS IN THE BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME**

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**Introduction** Polyp size is a principal factor used to determine surveillance intervals both nationally and internationally, and is an independent risk factor for the malignant potential of colorectal lesions. There is uncertainty regarding the most accurate method of measurement of colonic polyps, between the in situ and post-formalin fixation measurements. This study aims to determine the preferred polyp measurement for use in determining surveillance intervals and compare post-fixation polyp measurements using three different devices.

**Methods** 107 consecutive colorectal polyps were measured in situ, pre-fixation and post-fixation to the nearest millimetre. Post-fixation measurements were recorded using a metal ruler, callipers and a graduated magnifying lens. One sample t-tests and the Kruskall–Wallis test were used for data analysis.

**Results** Pre-fixation ruler measurements were significantly higher than both in situ and post-fixation ruler measurements (p<0.05). However no significant difference was observed between in situ and post-fixation measurements (p=0.36). In situ measurements were associated with a higher rate of surveillance group variation than post-fixation measurements (9.3% vs 5.6%). No significant difference was seen between measurements obtained by the three different devices post-fixation (p=0.89).

**Conclusion** Post-fixation polyp size measurements are associated with lower rates of surveillance variation and may be considered the preferred measurement. On average colonoscopists underestimated polyp size. In the absence of a clinically significant difference between measurement devices, we advise the ruler be used for post-fixation measurements due to its widespread availability.

**Competing interests** None declared.

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**PWE-087 COLONOSCOPY DEMAND AND ADHERENCE TO POLYPS SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES**

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**Introduction** Demand for colonoscopy is projected to increase by 5–10% per annum. Many units are struggling to match the demand to existing capacity. A significant proportion of endoscopy unit workload is related to follow-up colonoscopy in patients with a previous history of colorectal adenomas. Non-adherence to the BSG polyp surveillance guidelines could result in either excess demand for colonoscopy or inappropriate delays in diagnosing advanced colorectal neoplasia.

**Methods** We retrospectively searched the Trust’s endoscopy database (catchment population 520 000) to assess our compliance to the

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