Optical Diagnosis of Predysplastic Stage of Colon Carcinogenesis

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Northwestern University Biophotonics Laboratory: optics for early cancer diagnosis



Why study predysplastic stages of colon carcinogenesis?

Screening

- <u>Entire colon visualization is</u> the "gold-standard" but presently <u>impractical</u> for widespread screening.
- Development of an accurate relatively non-invasive <u>risk-stratification</u> technique is of paramount importance in reducing colon cancer mortality.

Biological understanding

Potential treatment

Extension to other cancers, e.g. pancreatic cancer

Screening can be based on the "field effect":

- Environmental/genetic milieu that leads to a neoplastic lesion in one area of the colon should be detectable throughout the entire colonic mucosa
- "Field Effect" Based Screening techniques:
 - <u>Morphological: polyps</u> detected on flexible sigmoidoscopy, aberrant crypt foci (ACF)
 - <u>Cellular: apoptosis, proliferation</u>
 - <u>Biochemical: protein kinase C, mucus disaccharide (Gal-GalNAc)</u>

Four-dimensional elastic light scattering fingerprinting (4D-ELF)



IEEE J Sel. Top. Quant. Elect., 9(2), 2003.

 AOM-treated rat model is one of the most robust and widely used animal models of CRC.

4D-ELF diagnosis of predysplastic stage of colon carcinogenesis



Gastroenterology, 126, 1071-1081 (2004).

Early increase of subepithelial blood supply (EIBS) in preinvasive neoplasia

Animal Study

Pilot Human Study

n=36

Pre-ACF, pre-

94%

96%

97%

92%

Low-risk

ACF, pre-adenoma

stage

100%

100%

100%

100%

