

## Question 21 – Week of July 7

Which of the following statements about the clinical presentations of FAP/Attenuated FAP is true?

- A. Approximately 50% of patients with FAP will develop colorectal cancer if the disease is left untreated.
- B. Patients with FAP have a family history of colon cancer or polyposis in over 90% of cases.
- C. Colonoscopic screening is necessary in patients from families with Attenuated FAP.
- D. Women with FAP should be screened annually for endometrial cancer.

**Answer: C**

Due to the large number of colon adenomas, almost all (~100%) patients with FAP will eventually develop colon cancer in the absence of treatment. Up to 30% of FAP cases represent new mutations. Patients with attenuated FAP usually have only 10-100 colon adenomas and often they can be scattered in the proximal colon. Hence, full colonoscopy is essential to evaluate the colon. Patients with HNPCC are at an increased risk for developing endometrial cancer, but not patients with FAP.

### References:

1. Winawer SJ, Fletcher R, Rex D, et al. U.S. Multisociety task force on colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer screening and surveillance: Clinical guidelines and rationale - Update based on new evidence. *Gastroenterology* 2003;124(2):544-560.
2. Lynch HT, Smyrk T, McGinn T, et al. Attenuated Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (AFAP) - A phenotypically and genotypically distinctive variant of FAP. *Cancer* 1995;76(12):2427-2433.