

## **Question 2 – Week of July 12**

In young patients with large right-sided adenomas with an uncertain family history of colon cancer and without fulfillment of Amsterdam Criteria, the most practical initial test to begin hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer (HNPCC) evaluation should be:

- A. DNA testing of patient's serum for microsatellite instability.
- B. Immunohistochemical staining of polyp tissue for mismatch repair (MMR) genes.
- C. DNA testing of patient's serum for mismatch repair gene sequencing (MLH1, PMS2).
- D. Annual lifetime full colonoscopic examinations.

**Answer: B**

Initial testing to evaluate patients with polyps at a young age that may be at risk of having HNPCC without fulfilling Amsterdam Criteria for HNPCC is immunohistochemical staining for the MMR genes and evaluating for absence of nuclear staining of a particular MMR gene. Only then, should more expensive testing that may require additional genetic counseling be undertaken.