

# Local Recurrence of Rectal Cancer

## Risk factors, diagnosis and Quality of Life

Akademisk avhandling

Som för avläggande av medicine doktorexamen vid Sahlgrenska akademien, Göteborgs universitet kommer att offentligens försvaras i Hörsal Arvid Carlsson, Academicum, Medicinargatan 3, Göteborg, torsdagen den 5:e december klockan 9.00

av Sophia Waldenstedt

Fakultetsopponent:

Docent Jakob Hedberg

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### Avhandlingen baseras på följande delarbeten

- I. Waldenstedt S, Bock D, Haglind E, Sjöberg B, Angenete E. **Intraoperative adverse events as a risk factor for local recurrence of rectal cancer after resection surgery**  
*Colorectal Dis. 2022 Apr;24(4):449-460*
- II. Waldenstedt S, Haglind E, Angenete E. **Symptoms and diagnosis of local recurrence after rectal cancer treatment**  
*Acta Oncol. 2022 Sep;61(9):1043-1049*
- III. McKigney N, Waldenstedt S, Gonzalez E, van Rees J M, Vind Thaysen H, Angenete E, Velikova G, Brown JM, Harji DP. **Survivorship issues in long-term survivors of locally recurrent rectal cancer: a qualitative study**  
*Submitted manuscript*
- IV. Waldenstedt S, Haglind E, Klintefelt Collet S, Angenete E. **Validation of the reporting of local recurrence of rectal cancer in the Swedish ColoRectal Cancer Registry (SCRCR)**  
*Manuscript*

**SAHLGRENKA AKADEMIN  
INSTITUTIONEN FÖR KLINISKA VETENSKAPER**



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## Risk factors, diagnosis and Quality of Life

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### ABSTRACT

**Aim** To explore different aspects of local recurrence of rectal cancer, including intraoperative adverse events as a risk factor, symptoms and diagnosis, survivorship issues and Quality of Life, and to validate data on local recurrence in the Swedish ColoRectal Cancer Registry.

**Methods** Papers I and II are based on a retrospective review of medical records for a regional population-based cohort. Paper III is an international, multicentre qualitative study based on semi-structured, in-depth interviews with long-term survivors. Paper IV is a validation of data on local recurrence in the Swedish ColoRectal Cancer Registry including a national two-year cohort, with a review of medical records as the “gold standard”.

**Results** Intraoperative adverse events were a risk factor for local recurrence (paper I). Most patients were diagnosed with symptomatic disease outside of follow-up. Pain was a possible alarm symptom (paper II). Long-term survivors generally described having a good Quality of Life despite several survivorship issues (paper III). The validity of local recurrence in the Swedish ColoRectal Cancer Registry is inadequate, with ~40% of cases not reported.

**Conclusions** Enabling patients to report symptoms may improve diagnosis of local recurrence. Using a prediction model, including intraoperative adverse events, to select high-risk patients for intensive monitoring could be of value. Local recurrence has a long-lasting impact. However, the Quality of Life of survivors is generally good following adaptation. To be useful, improved validity of local recurrence in the Swedish ColoRectal Cancer Registry is crucial.

**Keywords:** Rectal cancer, Local recurrence, Surgery, Quality of Life.