

# A Clinicopathological Study of Asymptomatic Colorectal Cancer Detected by a Fecal Occult Blood Test

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**Abstract :** Clinicopathological study was carried out in 765 patients with colorectal cancer who were treated at our hospital between July 1985 and December 1997. They were classified into two groups consisting of : an occult blood group (those who were detected by a positive fecal occult blood test (FOB), n=100) and a symptomatic group (n=665). The number of cases in the FOB group has recently increased, and now comprises 20% of the whole. Cases of the FOB group were significantly higher than that of the symptomatic group in the right-sided colon. In cancer cases at several locations, the incidence of early cancer in the FOB group was significantly higher than that in the symptomatic group. Especially in the FOB group, the incidence of early cancer was significantly higher in the right-sided colon and rectum. Therefore, differences in the survival rate between the FOB group and the symptomatic group were statistically significant. These results suggested that the fecal occult blood test can be useful for the earlier detection of colorectal cancer and therefore will be able to positively contribute to an improved prognosis after surgery.

**Key words :** Occult blood test, Colorectal cancer, Prognosis