

Relation of tumour to anterior peritoneal reflection (Core)

For rectal tumours only, the relationship of the tumour to the anterior peritoneal reflection must be recorded, as this predicts the risk of local recurrence in addition to peritoneal recurrence (Figure 1).¹ The anterior aspect of the rectum is covered by peritoneum down to level of the peritoneal reflection. Posteriorly, the non-peritonealised margin extends upwards as a triangular shaped bare area containing the rectal arteries. Superiorly this area is continuous with the sigmoid mesocolon.

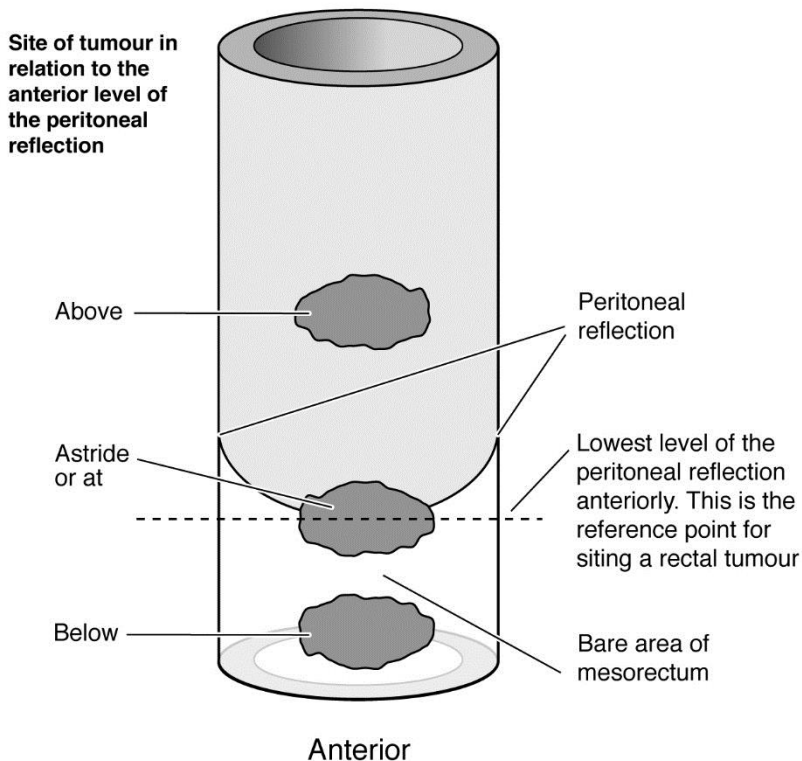


Figure 1: Site of tumour in relation to the anterior level of the peritoneal reflection. Reproduced with permission from Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (2016). *Colorectal cancer structured reporting protocol, 3rd Edition*. RCPA, Australia.²

References

- 1 Quirke P, Steele R, Monson J, Grieve R, Khanna S, Couture J, O'Callaghan C, Myint AS, Bessell E, Thompson LC, Parmar M, Stephens RJ and Sebag-Montefiore D (2009). Effect of the plane of surgery achieved on local recurrence in patients with operable rectal cancer: a prospective study using data from the MRC CR07 and NCIC-CTG CO16 randomised clinical trial. *Lancet* 373(9666):821-828.
- 2 Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (2016). *Colorectal cancer structured reporting protocol*. Available from: <https://www.rcpa.edu.au/getattachment/730b9fad-3228-4601-9009-b3d671818bd6/Protocol-colorectal-cancer.aspx> (Accessed 22nd April 2020).