

Reply to Comments

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Professor E. Robinson offers the following reply to the comments by A. Gerard and H. Bleiberg (*Eur J Cancer Clin Oncol* 1987, **23**, 1089-1090)

Comment I: Were all operated patients really referred to the Hospital?

Answer: In the Materials and Methods we wrote that our center is the only regional center. In a prior study we compared the referred to our center with the nation-wide Israel Cancer Registry and found that over 92% of all cancer patients diagnosed in this area are referred to us.

Comment II: The pathological data were not standardized?

Answer: Correct.

Comment III: How was the information concerning the first symptom collected?

Answer: All patients were interviewed prospectively by one of the two trained reviewers.

Comment IV: What were the first symptoms? One episode of diarrhea?

Answer: Only persistent symptoms over 14 days were considered as first symptoms.

Comment V: Regarding the stage and ethnic distribution it remains to be studied whether oriental and occidental Jews have a similar outcome.

Comment VI: Highly malignant tumors . . . rapidly produce symptoms.

Answer: In the discussion we wrote 'The biological behavior of the tumor has been found to be a prognostic factor in colon cancer.'

Comment VII: We were happy to read that our main conclusion regarding the need of education programs has also been reached by Gerard and Bleiberg.