Background
Hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer (HNPCC) is hallmarked by microsatellite instability. The prognosis of HNPCC-related colon cancer is well characterized, but little is known about rectal cancers. The aim of this study was to report the long-term outcomes of HNPCC-related rectal cancer where current-era multimodality therapy was utilized.

Methods
Patients referred to our institution for either primary or recurrent rectal cancer between 1992-2010 were identified based on following inclusion criteria: 1) pathogenic germline mutation in DNA mismatch repair genes (MMR; n=19); 2) germline variants of uncertain significance but tumor studies suggestive of MMR (n=6); 3) suggestive tumor studies but negative germline testing (n=5); and 4) suggestive tumor studies but no germline testing (n=4). Patients were reviewed for clinical characteristics and treatments, and followed to death or last contact.

Results
Among the 34 patients, 21 (62%) were female. The median age at diagnosis of rectal cancer was 40 (range: 20-72). In 28 patients (82%), this was the index cancer leading to the diagnosis of HNPCC, and in 22 patients (65%), this was their first malignancy. Only a minority satisfied Amsterdam I (21%) or Amsterdam II (21%) criteria, while nearly all (94%) met the revised Bethesda criteria. Pathogenic mutations included MLH1 (15%), MSH2 (32%) and MSH6 (9%). The majority (67%) presented with locally advanced (T3/T4 and/or node positive, n=20) or metastatic disease (n=3), and 50% received neoadjuvant radiation with 5-FU based chemotherapy. Final pathologic stages are as outlined below. Patients underwent proctectomy (65%), total/near total colectomy (21%), transanal excision (9%), and chemoradiation only (3%). Multivisceral resection was required in 9 patients (28%) and adjuvant therapy was given in 24 (71%). After a median follow-up of 4.1 years, 94% were alive. Six patients developed local-regional (n=3) or distant (n=3) disease recurrence, and 5 underwent successful surgical salvage. Metachronous CRC was found in 4 patients (12%) after a median of 8 years (range: 3.2-17), and all were amenable to surgical resection. The estimated 5-year freedom from recurrent or metachronous CRC was 76%. The 5-year overall survival was 93%, which was preserved at 10-years. Table 1.

Discussion
Rectal cancer may present as the index cancer for HNPCC over a wide age range. Despite advanced stages at presentation, excellent long-term prognosis can be expected with aggressive multimodality therapy. Vigilant surveillance for recurrent or metachronous CRC should

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathologic Stage</th>
<th>After neoadjuvant (n=17)</th>
<th>No neoadjuvant (n=17)</th>
<th>Total (n=50)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5 (29%)</td>
<td>2 (12%)</td>
<td>7 (21%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>2 (12%)</td>
<td>6 (35%)</td>
<td>8 (24%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>4 (24%)</td>
<td>5 (29%)</td>
<td>9 (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>5 (29%)</td>
<td>2 (12%)</td>
<td>7 (21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>1 (6%)</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
<td>2 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>2 (12%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Correspondence: ynyou@mdanderson.org
1Surgical Oncology, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX 77030, USA
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

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be carried out over a prolonged time period to allow for repeat surgical salvage and preserved long-term survival.

Author details
1Surgical Oncology, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX 77030, USA.
2Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX 77030, USA.

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