

Clinical Evaluation of PolyDeep, a Computer Aided Detection system: A Multicenter Randomized Tandem Colonoscopy Trial

[Pedro Davila-Piñón](#)*, [Astrid Irene Díez Martín](#), [Alba Nogueira-Rodríguez](#), Ruben Domínguez-Carbajales, [Florentino Fdez-Riverola](#), Sara Zarraquiños, [Luisa de Castro](#), Jesús Herrero, Nereida Fernández, [Pablo Vega](#), [David Remedios](#), Alfonso Martínez, [Manuel Puga](#), Sara Alonso, [Noel Pin](#), Natalia García-Morales, Laura Rivas, [Alejandro Ledo](#), Ramiro Macenlle, [Lucia Cid](#), Antonio Rodríguez, Santiago Soto, Franco Baiocchi, Indhira Pérez-Medrano, Eloy Sánchez, [Daniel Glez-Peña](#), [Miguel Reboiro-Jato](#), [Hugo López-Fernández](#), [Joaquin Cubiella](#)

Posted Date: 12 September 2025

doi: 10.20944/preprints202509.1104.v1

Keywords: colorectal cancer; screening; adenoma miss rate; tandem colonoscopy; polyp detection; cade; colonoscopy quality; surveillance; positive FIT; advanced polyps



Preprints.org is a free multidisciplinary platform providing preprint service that is dedicated to making early versions of research outputs permanently available and citable. Preprints posted at Preprints.org appear in Web of Science, Crossref, Google Scholar, Scilit, Europe PMC.

Copyright: This open access article is published under a Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 license, which permit the free download, distribution, and reuse, provided that the author and preprint are cited in any reuse.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions, and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions, or products referred to in the content.

Article

Clinical Evaluation of PolyDeep, a Computer Aided Detection system: A Multicenter Randomized Tandem Colonoscopy Trial

Pedro Davila-Piñón ^{1,2,*}, Astrid Irene Díez-Martín ^{1,2}, Alba Nogueira-Rodríguez ^{3,4}, Ruben Domínguez-Carbajales ⁵, Florentino Fdez-Riverola ^{3,4}, Sara Zarraquiños ⁶, Luisa de Castro ⁷, Jesús Herrero ⁶, Nereida Fernández ⁷, Pablo Vega ⁶, David Remedios ⁶, Alfonso Martínez ⁷, Manuel Puga ⁶, Sara Alonso ⁷, Noel Pin ⁶, Natalia García Morales ⁷, Laura Rivas ⁶, Alejandro Ledo ⁸, Ramiro Macenlle ⁶, Lucía Cid ⁷, Antonio Rodríguez ⁷, Santiago Soto ⁶, Franco Baiocchi ⁶, Indhira, Pérez-Medrano ^{8,9}, Eloy Sánchez ⁶, Daniel Glez-Peña ^{3,4}, Miguel Reboiro-Jato ^{3,4}, Hugo López-Fernández ^{3,4} and Joaquin Cubiella ^{1,7}.

¹ Research Group in Gastrointestinal Oncology Ourense, University Hospital of Ourense, Ourense, Spain

² Fundación Pública Galega de Investigación Biomédica Galicia Sur, Hospital Universitario de Ourense, SERGAS, 32005 Ourense, Spain

³ Universidade de Vigo, Department of Computer Science, ESEI - Escuela Superior de Ingeniería Informática, 32004 Ourense, Spain

⁴ SING Research Group, Galicia Sur Health Research Institute (IIS Galicia Sur), SERGAS-UVIGO, Spain

⁵ University Hospital of Ourense, Department of IT, Ourense, Spain

⁶ University Hospital of Ourense, Department of Gastroenterology, Ourense, Spain

⁷ University Hospital Álvaro Cunqueiro of Vigo, Department of Gastroenterology, Vigo, Spain

⁸ Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Pontevedra, Department of Gastroenterology, Pontevedra, Spain

⁹ Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Galicia Sur (IISGS), Vigo, Spain

* Correspondence: pedro.davila@iisgaliciasur.es

Abstract

Background/Objectives: Computer-aided detection (CADe) systems are increasingly used in endoscopy to enhance lesion recognition. PolyDeep is a CADe/x tool previously assessed in an observational study. The aim of our study is to determine if PolyDeep-assisted colonoscopy reduces the adenoma miss rate (AMR) compared with conventional colonoscopy. **Methods:** We carried out a multicenter randomized controlled trial with a tandem colonoscopy design in participants from a colorectal cancer screening program (positive fecal immunochemical test-FIT or surveillance). Expert endoscopists performed all colonoscopies, and patients were allocated to groups by a computer-generated sequence. The primary endpoint was AMR; secondary endpoints included polyp miss rate (PMR), serrated lesion miss rate (SLMR) and advanced polyp miss rate (APMR). **Results:** From May to November 2023, we recruited 260 patients and excluded 20, leaving 240 for analysis. Baseline characteristics were balanced between groups (62.1% male; mean age 62.3 ± 6.5 years; 65.8% FIT-positive; mean first withdrawal time 13:38 ± 08:07 minutes; mean second withdrawal time 07:50 ± 03:38 minutes; lesion detection rate 76.6%; mean polyps per patient 3.4 ± 3.1). We did not find statistically significant differences between PolyDeep-assisted and conventional colonoscopy groups in AMR (21.3% vs 18.1%, $p = 0.5$), PMR (21.8% vs 20.3%, $p = 0.7$), SLMR (23.4% vs 25.6%, $p = 0.9$) or APMR (7.3% vs 11.3%, $p = 0.5$). In the subgroup analysis according to indication, we did not find any statistically significant differences. **Conclusions:** In the context of a CRC screening program, PolyDeep-assisted colonoscopy did not reduce AMR.

Keywords: colorectal cancer; screening; adenoma miss rate; tandem colonoscopy; polyp detection; cade; colonoscopy quality; surveillance; positive FIT; advanced polyps

1. Introduction

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most commonly diagnosed malignancy and the second leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide, with the highest incidence and mortality rates observed globally [1]. CRC typically develops over a number of years from precancerous lesions, such as adenomas and serrated polyps [2]. Organised CRC screening programmes are offered to individuals at average risk (generally those aged between 50 and 75 years) reducing both the incidence and mortality of the disease [2–4]. The primary screening modalities employed to detect precancerous lesions are the faecal immunochemical occult blood test (FIT) and colonoscopy [3,5]. In several countries, including Spain, FIT is the initial test offered; individuals with a positive result are subsequently referred for diagnostic colonoscopy, which remains the gold standard for lesion detection [3,5].

Colonoscopy remains the only test able of detecting precancerous lesions, namely adenomas and serrated lesions, within the colonic mucosa [3,5]. A proportion of these lesions present challenges owing to their small size (i.e., <5 mm) or morphology (e.g., flat or depressed), which can hinder their detection [6,7]. In addition, factors related to endoscopist performance such as fatigue, suboptimal mucosal exposure, or limited experience may further compromise lesion identification [6,7]. Collectively, these factors contribute to the risk of missed lesions during colonoscopy, which may subsequently lead to the development of post-colonoscopy colorectal cancer (PCCRC) [4]. The adenoma miss rate (AMR), defined as the proportion of adenomas detected during a second withdrawal relative to the total number of adenomas, ranges from 17% to 48%, with two meta-analyses estimating average miss rates of 22% and 26%, respectively [8,9].

In recent years, various computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems based on artificial intelligence (AI) and deep learning (DL) have been applied to medical image analysis, including radiography, mammography, and cardiovascular imaging [10–12]. In the context of colonoscopy, computer-aided detection (CADe) systems have been evaluated in randomized clinical trials employing a range of designs (i.e., comparisons between CADe-assisted and conventional colonoscopy, or tandem colonoscopy designs) and using diverse endpoints, including adenoma detection rate (ADR), polyp detection rate (PDR), AMR, and polyp miss rate (PMR) [13–22]. Although the use of these systems appears to improve diagnostic performance metrics, their role in routine clinical practice remains to be fully established [23].

PolyDeep is a computer-aided detection and characterization (CADe/x) system developed to identify colorectal lesions in real time during colonoscopy. The system integrates a neural detection network based on the YOLOv3 architecture and an object tracking algorithm, which maintains and follows all detections in each subsequent frame [24–27]. PolyDeep was initially validated *in vitro* and subsequently evaluated in a prospective study using a second-observer design [28,29]. In the present randomized controlled trial employing a tandem colonoscopy design, our objective was to determine whether the AMR in the PolyDeep-assisted colonoscopy group is superior to that of the conventional colonoscopy group.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Design

PolyDeep Advance 2 (NCT05512793) is a multicentre randomised controlled trial (RCT) with a tandem colonoscopy design. The study was conducted in the endoscopy units of three university hospitals in Spain: Hospital de Ourense, Hospital Álvaro Cunqueiro de Vigo, and Hospital de Montecelo de Pontevedra. The study was approved by the institutional review board (2022/067) in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and applicable guidelines for good clinical practice. Data from the three centres were verified and monitored within the electronic Case Report Form (eCRF) in the REDCap platform at the Galicia-Sur health research institute ([!\[\]\(870f5d5e9c0d57485634be3ecf52f3ca_img.jpg\)](https://redcap.tic1-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

iisgaliciasur.es/). The study was reported in accordance with the CONSORT-AI guideline for randomized trials.

2.2. Participants of the Study

We prospectively included patients aged between 40 and 79 years who underwent a colonoscopy after a positive FIT or a surveillance colonoscopy following the resection of advanced adenomas. Participants were excluded if they had a personal history of colorectal cancer or previous colonic resection, a hereditary syndrome predisposing to colorectal cancer, or serrated polyposis syndrome. Regarding colonoscopy quality, patients were excluded if they had an inadequate Boston Bowel Preparation Scale score (<2 in any segment or <6 overall) or if cecal intubation was not achieved. All participants provided written informed consent prior to inclusion in the study.

2.3. Randomization Process

We randomized the patients in a 1:1 ratio by a stratified block design based on the colonoscopy indication, such as positive FIT or surveillance endoscopy. We created blocks of two in all possible combinations (i.e., four combinations) and randomly assigned each block to positions within the randomization template. To minimize bias, we doubled the number of allocation slots (i.e., with 260 patients to be randomized, we generated 520 slots), ensuring a more balanced and unbiased randomization process. Finally, the randomization template was uploaded to the eCRF by the study coordinator. The endoscopists performed the randomization process of the participants before the colonoscopy, to know which is the allocation group and what tandem colonoscopy they should do. However, participants were not aware of the randomization allocation.

2.4. Clinical Setting

We conducted the study in a conventional endoscopy room using a standard endoscopy tower with high definition colonoscopes using the model EXERA III CV 190 or higher. We integrated the PolyDeep system into the setup, connecting the CADe/x system to both the endoscopy tower and the monitor displaying the colonoscopy image. The same monitor showed both the colonoscopy image and the PolyDeep system's output, including overlays highlighting detected polyps. Upon the patient's arrival in the endoscopy room, the endoscopists explained the study and obtained written informed consent. They then randomized the participants in the eCRF, assigning them to either the conventional group (conventional colonoscopy followed by assisted colonoscopy) or the PolyDeep group (assisted colonoscopy followed by conventional colonoscopy). All endoscopists were experts, meaning they are participants of the CRC screening program with more than 300 colonoscopies, one year of experience and with a rigorous quality control based on key quality indicators. They performed a back-to-back colonoscopy with two withdrawal phases according to the assigned randomization sequence. During each withdrawal phase, the endoscopists measured withdrawal time using the timer in the colonoscope control device. Lesions were counted only in one of the withdrawal phases and resected upon identification. Throughout the procedure, the nursing and auxiliary team recorded polyp data on a log sheet, including withdrawal phase, morphology, location, size, and both the endoscopists' and PolyDeep's optical diagnosis.

We sent all identified and retrieved lesions for histopathological evaluation, which served as the gold standard for analysis. If a lesion could not be resected during the procedure, the endoscopists documented its characteristics and obtained a biopsy. In the eCRF, we recorded participant demographic data (age, sex, and colonoscopy indication), colonoscopy details (Boston Bowel Preparation Scale score, withdrawal time, and cecal intubation), and polyp-specific information (withdrawal phase of identification, morphology, size, location, optical diagnosis, and histological evaluation)

2.5. Endpoints

The primary endpoint was to assess and compare the AMR between the conventional group and the PolyDeep group. Secondary endpoints included the evaluation and comparison of the PMR, serrated lesion miss rate (SLMR), advanced adenoma miss rate (AAMR), advanced serrated lesion miss rate (ASLMR) and advanced polyp miss rate (APMR) between both groups.

2.6. Sample Size

We calculated the sample size based on the assumption that the conventional group had a 30% AMR and the PolyDeep group a 20%, considering an alpha error of 5% and a beta error of 20% [14]. We should include 294 adenomas and 118 patients per group, assuming an average of 2.5 lesions per colonoscopy. Attending a drop-out rate of 10% for incomplete colonoscopies, we should include 260 patients.

2.7. Statistical Analysis

We conducted a descriptive analysis of the study population, including demographics, colonoscopy procedures, and identified lesions. Quantitative variables are reported as mean and standard deviation, while qualitative variables expressed as frequency and percentages. We compared both groups using the t-Student and chi-square tests. To evaluate and compare miss rates of different types of lesions, we built 2×2 confusion matrices. For the primary endpoint, we calculated the AMR as the ratio between the number of adenomas detected during the second withdrawal and the total number of adenomas detected in the colonoscopy (i.e., first and second withdrawals). For secondary endpoints, we determined the PMR, SLMR, AAMR, ASLMR and APMR using similar calculations, dividing the number of lesions detected during the second withdrawal by the total number of detected lesions. Additionally, we performed subgroup analyses based on indication, lesion size, location, and morphology. All miss rate metrics are presented as percentages, with a significant difference between both groups established in $p < 0.05$ for the t-Student and chi-square tests. We performed all statistical analyses using R (version 4.4.1, The R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Institute for Statistics and Mathematics, Vienna, Austria).

3. Results

3.1. Population Description

Between May and November 2023, we randomly allocated 260 patients, with 130 (50%) assigned to each group. After excluding 20 patients (13 from the conventional group and 7 from the PolyDeep group), we analysed data from 240 participants, with 48.8% in the conventional group and 51.2% in the PolyDeep group (Figure 1). Table 1 presents a description and comparison of the baseline characteristics of both groups. Most participants included by the endoscopists were male and had a positive FIT result. We did not find statistically significant differences between the conventional group and the PolyDeep group (Table 1).

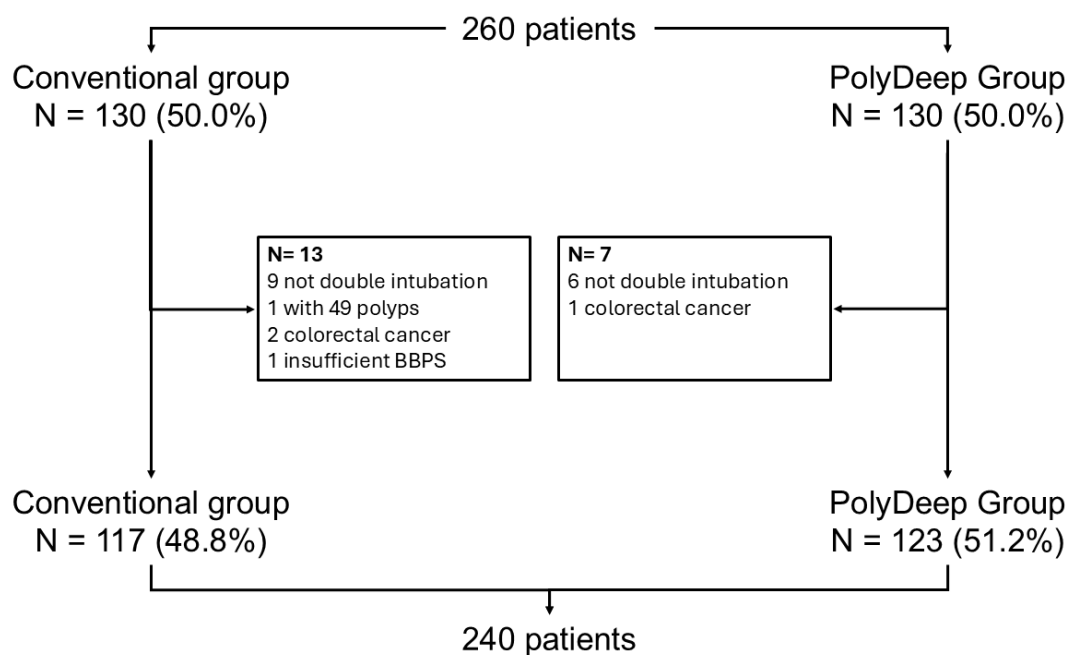


Figure 1. Flowchart of the study.

Table 1. Comparison between colonoscopy group and PolyDeep group.

	Conventional group ¹ (N = 117)	PolyDeep Group ² (N = 123)	P ⁴
Age (years)	63.0 ± 6.8	61.6 ± 6.2	0.1
Sex (male)	69 (50.4%)	80 (65.0%)	0.4
Indication (FIT)	75 (64.1%)	83 (67.5%)	0.7
Boston Bowel cleansing	7.59 ± 1.28	7.42 ± 1.31	0.3
First withdrawal time (minutes: seconds)	13:34 ± 8:39	13:41 ± 07:37	0.9
Second withdrawal time (minutes: seconds)	07:58 ± 3:17	07:42 ± 03:57	0.6
Detection of lesions (yes)	90 (76.9%)	94 (76.4%)	0.7
Number of polyps	3.4 ± 3.3	3.4 ± 2.9	1.0
Polyp size (millimetres)	4.5 ± 4.7	4.9 ± 4.7	0.4

¹First withdrawal with conventional colonoscopy. ²First withdrawal with PolyDeep (i.e., assisted colonoscopy).

³Categorical variables are presented as frequency and percentage and continuous variables as mean and standard deviation. ⁴Comparisons between groups with the chi-square and t-Student test with a significant level of $p < 0.05$.

We detected 674 lesions of which 612 (90.8%) were adenomas and serrated lesions, while 62 (9.2%) belonged to other categories (i.e., inflammatory polyps, hamatomatous polyps or lesions without histology). These lesions were distributed as 445 adenomas (66.0%), 167 serrated lesions (24.8%), 37 other polyps (5.2%) and 27 lesions without histology (4.0%) (Table 2). Table 2 shows the overall number of lesions detected in each group.

Related to the characteristics of the lesions identified, most of them were diminutive polyps located in the proximal colon with more detections in this category made by the conventional group than by the PolyDeep group (Table 2). The mean size of polyps in both groups was inferior to 5 mm

(i.e., conventional group: 4.5 ± 4.7 vs PolyDeep group: 4.9 ± 4.7). The mean number of adenomas detected per patient in the conventional group was 2.9 ± 2.5 , while in the PolyDeep group 2.8 ± 2.2 .

Table 2. Number of lesions detected in the first and second withdrawal.

	Conventional group ¹		PolyDeep group ²		
	1 ^a withdrawal	2 ^a withdrawal ³	1 ^a withdrawal	2 ^a withdrawal ³	p ⁴
Adenoma	172 (81.9%)	38 (18.1%)	185 (78.7%)	50 (21.3%)	0.5
Serrated lesion	67 (74.4%)	23 (25.6%)	59 (76.6%)	18 (23.4%)	0.9
Polyp⁵	239 (79.7%)	61 (20.3%)	244 (78.2%)	68 (21.8%)	0.7
Other polyp	12 (75.0%)	4 (25.0%)	16 (84.2%)	3 (15.8%)	-
Not histology	12 (66.7%)	6 (33.3%)	6 (66.6%)	3 (33.3%)	-
Advanced adenomas⁶	40 (95.2%)	2 (4.8%)	37 (94.9%)	2 (5.1%)	1.0
Advanced serrated lesion⁷	9 (64.3%)	5 (35.7%)	19 (86.4%)	3 (13.6%)	0.2
Advanced polyp⁸	47 (88.7%)	6 (11.3%)	51 (92.7%)	4 (7.3%)	0.5
Proximal polyp⁹	141 (81.5%)	32 (18.5%)	134 (80.7%)	32 (19.3%)	0.8
Distal polyp¹⁰	98 (77.2%)	29 (22.8%)	110 (75.3%)	36 (24.7%)	0.8
< 5 mm polyp	161 (75.9%)	51 (24.1%)	149 (74.5%)	51 (25.5%)	0.8
< 10 mm polyp	203 (77.2%)	60 (22.8%)	209 (76.6%)	64 (23.4%)	0.9
≥ 5 mm polyp	78 (88.6%)	10 (11.4%)	95 (84.8%)	17 (15.2%)	0.6

¹First conventional colonoscopy. ²First PolyDeep-assisted colonoscopy. ³Variables are described as frequency and percentages. ⁴Chi-square test with a level of significance $p < 0.05$. ⁵Polyp include adenomas and serrated lesions. ⁶Adenomas with > 10 mm, tubule-villous or villous histology and high grade of dysplasia. ⁷Serrated lesions with >10 mm or dysplasia. ⁸Include advanced adenomas and advanced serrated lesions. ⁹Polyp between cecum and splenic flexure. ¹⁰Polyp between descendent and rectum.

3.2. Diagnostic Performance: Adenoma Miss Rate, Polyp Miss Rate, Serrated Lesion Miss Rate

Table 2 shows the distribution of lesions detected in the first and in the second withdrawal to determine the lesion miss rates. We did not find statistically significant differences for AMR between the conventional group and the PolyDeep group (18.1% vs 21.3%, $p = 0.5$). Similarly, we did not find

statistically significant differences between both groups for PMR (20.3% vs 21.8%, $p = 0.7$) and SLMR (25.6% vs 23.4%, $p = 0.9$).

3.3. Sub-Analysis by Size, Location and Advanced Lesions

In the size-based analysis, we did not find statistically significant differences in the miss rates of diminutive polyps smaller than 5 mm (24.1% vs 25.5%, $p = 0.8$), in small polyps with less than 10 mm (22.8% vs 23.4%, $p = 0.9$), and large polyps which are equal or larger than 5 mm (11.4% vs 15.2%, $p = 0.6$) (Table 2).

With respect to the polyp miss rates by location (i.e., proximal and distal colon; Table 2) we did not observe statistically significant differences between conventional and PolyDeep groups (proximal colon: 18.5% vs 19.3%, $p = 0.8$; distal colon: 22.8% vs 24.7%, $p = 0.8$). Finally, there were no significant differences between both groups in advanced polyps (11.3% vs 7.3%, $p = 0.5$), advanced adenomas (4.8% vs 5.1%, $p = 1.0$) and advanced serrated lesions (35.7% vs 13.6%, $p = 0.2$).

3.4. Sub-Analysis by Colonoscopy Indication

Table 3 shows the distribution of lesions detected by screening indication. In this case, we did not find statistically significant differences for AMR (14.9% vs 20.4%, $p = 0.2$) between the conventional and PolyDeep groups. We also did not find statistically significant differences for SLMR (29.4% vs 25.0%, $p = 0.7$) and PMR (18.6% vs 21.6%, $p = 0.5$). For the miss rates by advanced lesions, location, and size, we did not find statistically significant differences between both groups. On the other hand, for surveillance colonoscopy, we did not find significant differences between both groups for AMR, SLMR, and PMR. As well as we did not find differences for advanced lesions (33.3% vs 0.0%, $p = 0.2$), location (proximal: 18.8% vs 26.3%, $p = 0.5$ distal: 34.4% vs 17.2%, $p = 0.2$), and size (<5 mm: 28.2% vs 26.9%, $p = 1.0$; ≥ 5 mm: 0.0% vs 6.7%, $p = 0.5$).

Table 3. Miss rates of lesions by indications.

	Screening ¹		p ⁴	Surveillance ¹		p ⁴
	Conventional group ²	PolyDeep Group ³		Conventional group ²	PolyDeep group ³	
Adenoma miss rate	14.9% ⁵	20.4%	0.2	25.8%	24.1%	1.0
Serrated lesion miss rate	29.4%	25.0%	0.7	20.5%	15.4%	1.0
Polyp miss rate⁶	18.6%	21.6%	0.5	23.8%	22.4%	1.0
Advanced polyp miss rate⁷	6.8%	8.2%	1.0	33.3%	0.0%	0.2
Proximal polyp miss rate⁸	18.3%	17.2%	0.9	18.8%	26.3%	0.5
Distal polyp miss rate⁹	18.9%	26.5%	0.3	34.4%	17.2%	0.2
< 5 mm polyp miss rate	21.3%	25.0%	0.6	28.2%	26.9%	1.0
≥ 5 mm polyp miss rate	13.9%	16.5%	0.8	0.0%	6.7%	0.5

¹Screening colonoscopy after faecal immunochemical occult blood test or surveillance after resection of colorectal adenomas. ²First conventional colonoscopy. ³First PolyDeep-assisted colonoscopy. ⁴Chi-square test with a level of significance $p < 0.05$. ⁵Variables are presented as percentage. ⁶Polyps include adenomas and serrated lesions. ⁷Advanced lesion miss rate include adenomas >10 mm, tubule-villous or villous histology and high-grade dysplasia. For serrated lesions > 10 mm and dysplasia.. ⁸Polyps between cecum and splenic flexure. ⁹Polyps between descendent and rectum.

4. Discussion

In this RCT with a tandem colonoscopy design, the use of PolyDeep did not reduce the AMR in the context of screening colonoscopies performed by expert endoscopists. Moreover, no significant differences were observed between groups with respect to indication, lesion type, or lesion location. In recent years, a substantial number of CADe systems have been integrated into real-time colonoscopy procedures, consistently demonstrating reductions in the AMR and increases in the ADR [13,18,30,31]. The adoption of CADe systems appears to enhance colonoscopy quality reflected by key performance indicators, such as ADR.

Our study employed a robust design, utilizing a back-to-back (i.e., tandem colonoscopy) approach with the AMR as the primary endpoint. One of the strengths of this design is that tandem colonoscopy allows for reliable AMR assessment with a relatively small sample size. However, this design also presents several potential limitations. First, AMR is not a standard quality indicator routinely measured in clinical practice, which may limit the generalizability of our findings. Second, there is a potential for bias among endoscopists due to the awareness of a second withdrawal opportunity; if a lesion was missed during the first withdrawal, they had a second chance to detect it, possibly altering their performance. Additionally, endoscopists fatigue may have affected outcomes, as double colonoscopies were performed within a standard clinical workload. This was particularly relevant towards the end of the day, when cumulative fatigue may have increased the likelihood of missed lesions. Furthermore, the use of a CADe system such as PolyDeep may have introduced an unintended sense of competition with the technology, potentially leading endoscopists to detect fewer lesions when the system was active.

A metaanalysis of four tandem colonoscopy studies reported a 65% reduction in AMR (odds ratio 0.35, 95% CI: 0.25–0.49), along with a 78% reduction in the SLMR [13]. Another metaanalysis reported comparable reductions in PMR and AMR, with absolute risk differences of 19% and 17.5%, respectively [18]. Further, recent evidence supports these findings, showing a 55% reduction in SLMR with CADe-assisted colonoscopy without reaching statistical significance [31]. However, our study did not identify statistically significant differences in AMR between PolyDeep-assisted and conventional colonoscopy. A non-significant reduction in SLMR was observed, consistent with previous meta-analyses. Additionally, the difference in withdrawal time was minimal, with the CADe-assisted colonoscopy in our study taking only seven seconds longer, comparable to findings from another study, which reported a nine-second increase [31].

One possible explanation for our negative results is the high expertise of the endoscopists who participated in the trial. As an example, the AMR of the conventional group was clearly inferior to the AMR reported in literature [14]. In this sense, in a recently published RCT, CADe did not increase the advanced adenoma detection rate in the context of FIT-based CRC screening programs [32]. In fact, the screening endoscopists involved in our study underwent periodic evaluation using the ADR (i.e., most of the endoscopists had an ADR superior to the 60%) as a measure of colonoscopy quality [33]. As a matter of fact, the latest guideline from the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy reported only a weak recommendation for the routine use of CADe, due to limited supporting evidence and ongoing concerns regarding its implementation particularly the need for further studies on cost-effectiveness and the potential drawbacks of human-AI interaction [23].

PolyDeep integrates a YOLOv3 neural detection network with an object tracking algorithm, trained on polyp detection with polyp and not-polyp images [24–26,28]. A potential limitation that could affect detection performance may be the algorithm itself. At the start of this clinical trial, a more recent version of the YOLO algorithm (i.e., YOLOv8) was already available, offering an improved lesion detection performance [34]. In an *ex vivo* study, YOLOv8 demonstrated high diagnostic performance for polyp detection in polyp images, with a sensitivity of 91.7 % and an F1 score of 92.4 % [35]. However, no clinical validation or RCTs have yet evaluated YOLOv8 in real-time colonoscopy procedures to determine whether it would outperform PolyDeep in detection tasks. Furthermore, as the clinical validation of PolyDeep was already underway, modifying the neural network architecture was not appropriate, as it would have compromised comparability with the results of the preceding observational detection study [29].

To conclude, the first PolyDeep-assisted colonoscopy did not reduce the AMR compared to the first conventional colonoscopy, indicating that endoscopists missed a relatively small number of lesions. Similarly, in the subgroup analyses by indication and polyp type, no statistically significant differences were observed between both groups.

Author Contributions: For research articles with several authors, a short paragraph specifying their individual contributions must be provided. The following statements should be used “Conceptualization, P.D.P, A.I.D.M, A.N.R, R.D.C, F.F.R, J.H, M.P., L.R., E.S., J.C., D.G.P., M.R.J. and H.L.F.; ; methodology, P.D.P, A.I.D.M, A.N.R, R.D.C, F.F.R, J.H, M.P., L.R., E.S., J.C., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F., S.Z., L.C., N.F., P.V., D.R., A.M., S.A., N.P., N.G.M., A.L., R.M., L.C., A.R., S.S., F.B. and I.P.M.; ; software, A.N.R., F.F.R., D.G.P., M.R.J. and H.L.F.; validation, P.D.P., A.I.D.M., A.N.R., R.D.C., F.F.R., J.H., M.P., L.R., E.S. ; formal analysis, P.D.P., A.I.D.M., A.N.R., R.D.C., F.F.R., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F., J.C. ; investigation, P.D.P., A.I.D.M., A.N.R., R.D.C., F.F.R., S.Z., L.C., J.H., N.F., P.V., D.R., A.M., M.P., S.A., N.P., N.G.M., L.R., A.L., R.M., L.C., A.R., S.S., F.B., I.P.M., E.S., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F. and J.C.; resources, P.D.P., A.I.D.M., A.N.R., R.D.C., F.F.R., S.Z., L.C., J.H., N.F., P.V., D.R., A.M., M.P., S.A., N.P., N.G.M., L.R., A.L., R.M., L.C., A.R., S.S., F.B., I.P.M., E.S., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F. and J.C.; data curation, P.D.P., A.I.D.M., A.N.R., R.D.C., F.F.R., J.H., M.P., L.R., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F. and J.C. ; writing – original draft preparation, P.D.P., A.I.D.M., A.N.R., R.D.C., F.F.R., S.Z., L.C., J.H., N.F., P.V., D.R., A.M., M.P., S.A., N.P., N.G.M., L.R., A.L., R.M., L.C., A.R., S.S., F.B., I.P.M., E.S., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F. and J.C. ; writing – review and editing, P.D.P., A.I.D.M., A.N.R., R.D.C., F.F.R., S.Z., L.C., J.H., N.F., P.V., D.R., A.M., M.P., S.A., N.P., N.G.M., L.R., A.L., R.M., L.C., A.R., S.S., F.B., I.P.M., E.S., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F. and J.C.; visualization, P.D.P., A.I.D.M., A.N.R., R.D.C., F.F.R., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F. and J.C; supervision, A.N.R., F.F.R., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F. and J.C.; project administration, A.N.R., F.F.R., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F. and J.C.; funding acquisition, A.N.R., F.F.R., D.G.P., M.R.J., H.L.F. and J.C. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.” Please turn to the CRediT taxonomy for the term explanation. Authorship must be limited to those who have contributed substantially to the work reported.

Funding: This research was funded by DPI2017-87494-R project, funded by MICIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by “ERDF A way of making Europe”, and part of the PDC2021-121644-I00 project, funded by MICIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by the “European Union NextGenerationEU/PRTR”. This research also received funding from the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain [PI21/01771, CD22/00087 and INT22/00009, FI22/00203], and the Consellería de Educación, Universidades e Formación Profesional (Xunta de Galicia) (ED431G 2019/06, ED431C 2022/03-GRC and ED481B-2023-005). These grants are partially financed by “ERDF A way of making Europe”. This research also obtained the Grant of Oncology-Tamarite 2022 from the Spanish Association of Gastroenterology.

Institutional Review Board Statement: The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and approved by the Institutional Review Board (or Ethics Committee) of Pontevedra-Vigo-Ourense (2022/067 and 17/02/2022).

Informed Consent Statement: Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

Data Availability Statement: The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Acknowledgments: Non-Applicable

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; or in the decision to publish the results.

References

1. Li, Y.; Xia, R.; Si, W.; Zhang, W.; Zhang, Y.; Zhuang, G. Cost Effectiveness of Colorectal Cancer Screening Strategies in Middle- and High-Income Countries: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (Australia)* 2025.

2. Lee, J.Y.; Cha, J.M.; Yoon, J.Y.; Kwak, M.S.; Lee, H.H. Association between Colonoscopy and Colorectal Cancer Occurrence and Mortality in the Older Population: A Population-Based Cohort Study. *Endoscopy* **2025**, doi:10.1055/a-2463-1737.
3. Castells, A.; Quintero, E.; Bujanda, L.; Castán-Cameo, S.; Cubiella, J.; Díaz-Tasende, J.; Lanás, Á.; Ono, A.; Serra-Burriel, M.; Frías-Arrocha, E.; et al. Articles Effect of Invitation to Colonoscopy versus Faecal Immunochemical Test Screening on Colorectal Cancer Mortality (COLONPREV): A Pragmatic, Randomised, Controlled, Non-Inferiority Trial. **2025**, doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(25)00145-X.
4. Rasmussen, S.L.; Pedersen, L.; Torp-Pedersen, C.; Rasmussen, M.; Bernstein, I.; Thorlacius-Ussing, O. Post-Colonoscopy Colorectal Cancer and the Association with Endoscopic Findings in the Danish Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme. *BMJ Open Gastroenterol* **2025**, *12*, e001692, doi:10.1136/bmjgast-2024-001692.
5. Bretthauer, M.; Løberg, M.; Wieszczy, P.; Kalager, M.; Emilsson, L.; Garborg, K.; Rupinski, M.; Dekker, E.; Spaander, M.; Bugajski, M.; et al. Effect of Colonoscopy Screening on Risks of Colorectal Cancer and Related Death. *New England Journal of Medicine* **2022**, *387*, 1547–1556, doi:10.1056/nejmoa2208375.
6. Wang, P.; Berzin, T.M.; Glissen Brown, J.R.; Bharadwaj, S.; Becq, A.; Xiao, X.; Liu, P.; Li, L.; Song, Y.; Zhang, D.; et al. Real-Time Automatic Detection System Increases Colonoscopic Polyp and Adenoma Detection Rates: A Prospective Randomised Controlled Study. *Gut* **2019**, *68*, 1813–1819, doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2018-317500.
7. Jahn, B.; Bundo, M.; Arvandi, M.; Schaffner, M.; Todorovic, J.; Sroczynski, G.; Knudsen, A.; Fischer, T.; Schiller-Fruehwirth, I.; Öfner, D.; et al. One in Three Adenomas Could Be Missed by White-Light Colonoscopy – Findings from a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *BMC Gastroenterol* **2025**, *25*, doi:10.1186/s12876-025-03679-4.
8. Van Rijn, J.C.; Reitsma, J.B.; Stoker, J.; Bossuyt, P.M.; Van Deventer, S.J.; Dekker, E. Polyp Miss Rate Determined by Tandem Colonoscopy: A Systematic Review. *American Journal of Gastroenterology* **2006**, *101*, 343–350.
9. Zhao, S.; Wang, S.; Pan, P.; Xia, T.; Chang, X.; Yang, X.; Guo, L.; Meng, Q.; Yang, F.; Qian, W.; et al. Magnitude, Risk Factors, and Factors Associated With Adenoma Miss Rate of Tandem Colonoscopy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Gastroenterology* **2019**, *156*, 1661-1674.e11, doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2019.01.260.
10. Misawa, M.; Kudo, S.E. Current Status of Artificial Intelligence Use in Colonoscopy. *Digestion* **2024**.
11. Aung, Y.Y.M.; Wong, D.C.S.; Ting, D.S.W. The Promise of Artificial Intelligence: A Review of the Opportunities and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare. *Br Med Bull* **2021**, *139*, 4–15.
12. Gao, J.; Jiang, Q.; Zhou, B.; Chen, D. Convolutional Neural Networks for Computer-Aided Detection or Diagnosis in Medical Image Analysis: An Overview. *Mathematical Biosciences and Engineering* **2019**, *16*, 6536–6561.
13. Shah, S.; Park, N.; Chehade, N.E.H.; Chahine, A.; Monachese, M.; Tiritilli, A.; Moosvi, Z.; Ortizo, R.; Samarasena, J. Effect of Computer-Aided Colonoscopy on Adenoma Miss Rates and Polyp Detection: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (Australia)* **2023**, *38*, 162–176, doi:10.1111/jgh.16059.
14. Glissen Brown, J.R.; Mansour, N.M.; Wang, P.; Chuchuca, M.A.; Minchenberg, S.B.; Chandnani, M.; Liu, L.; Gross, S.A.; Sengupta, N.; Berzin, T.M. Deep Learning Computer-Aided Polyp Detection Reduces Adenoma Miss Rate: A United States Multi-Center Randomized Tandem Colonoscopy Study (CADeT-CS Trial). *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* **2022**, *20*, 1499-1507.e4, doi:10.1016/j.cgh.2021.09.009.
15. Hiratsuka, Y.; Hisabe, T.; Ohtsu, K.; Yasaka, T.; Takeda, K.; Miyaoka, M.; Ono, Y.; Kanemitsu, T.; Imamura, K.; Takeda, T.; et al. Evaluation of Artificial Intelligence: Computer-Aided Detection of Colorectal Polyps. *J Anus Rectum Colon* **2025**, *9*, 79–87, doi:10.23922/jarc.2024-057.
16. Biscaglia, G.; Cocomazzi, F.; Gentile, M.; Loconte, I.; Mileti, A.; Paolillo, R.; Marra, A.; Castellana, S.; Mazza, T.; Di Leo, A.; et al. Real-Time, Computer-Aided, Detection-Assisted Colonoscopy Eliminates Differences in Adenoma Detection Rate between Trainee and Experienced Endoscopists. *Endosc Int Open* **2022**, *10*, E616–E621, doi:10.1055/a-1783-9678.
17. Yamaguchi, D.; Shimoda, R.; Miyahara, K.; Yukimoto, T.; Sakata, Y.; Takamori, A.; Mizuta, Y.; Fujimura, Y.; Inoue, S.; Tomonaga, M.; et al. Impact of an Artificial Intelligence-Aided Endoscopic Diagnosis System

- on Improving Endoscopy Quality for Trainees in Colonoscopy: Prospective, Randomized, Multicenter Study. *Digestive Endoscopy* **2024**, *36*, 40–48, doi:10.1111/den.14573.
18. Lou, S.; Du, F.; Song, W.; Xia, Y.; Yue, X.; Yang, D.; Cui, B.; Liu, Y.; Han, P. *Artificial Intelligence for Colorectal Neoplasia Detection during Colonoscopy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Clinical Trials*; 2023;
 19. Wang, P.; Liu, P.; Glissen Brown, J.R.; Berzin, T.M.; Zhou, G.; Lei, S.; Liu, X.; Li, L.; Xiao, X. Lower Adenoma Miss Rate of Computer-Aided Detection-Assisted Colonoscopy vs Routine White-Light Colonoscopy in a Prospective Tandem Study. *Gastroenterology* **2020**, *159*, 1252–1261.e5, doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2020.06.023.
 20. Maida, M.; Marasco, G.; Maas, M.H.J.; Ramai, D.; Spadaccini, M.; Sinagra, E.; Facciorusso, A.; Siersema, P.D.; Hassan, C. Effectiveness of Artificial Intelligence Assisted Colonoscopy on Adenoma and Polyp Miss Rate: A Meta-Analysis of Tandem RCTs. *Digestive and Liver Disease* **2025**, *57*, 169–175, doi:10.1016/j.dld.2024.09.003.
 21. M Lee, M.C.; Parker, C.H.; C Liu, L.W.; Farahvash, A.; Jeyalingam, T. *SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS Impact of Study Design on Adenoma Detection in the Evaluation of Artificial Intelligence-Aided Colonoscopy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*;
 22. Maas, M.H.J.; Rath, T.; Spada, C.; Soons, E.; Forbes, N.; Kashin, S.; Cesaro, P.; Eickhoff, A.; Vanbiervliet, G.; Salvi, D.; et al. A Computer-Aided Detection System in the Everyday Setting of Diagnostic, Screening and Surveillance Colonoscopy: An International, Randomized Trial. *Endoscopy* **2024**, doi:10.1055/a-2328-2844.
 23. Bretthauer, M.; Ahmed, J.; Antonelli, G.; Beaumont, H.; Beg, S.; Benson, A.; Bisschops, R.; De Cristofaro, E.; Gibbons, E.; Häfner, M.; et al. Use of Computer-Assisted Detection (CADe) Colonoscopy in Colorectal Cancer Screening and Surveillance: European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) Position Statement. *Endoscopy* **2025**, doi:10.1055/a-2543-0370.
 24. Nogueira-Rodríguez, A.; Domínguez-Carbajales, R.; Campos-Tato, F.; Herrero, J.; Puga, M.; Remedios, D.; Rivas, L.; Sánchez, E.; Iglesias, Á.; Cubiella, J.; et al. Real-Time Polyp Detection Model Using Convolutional Neural Networks. *Neural Comput Appl* **2022**, *34*, 10375–10396, doi:10.1007/s00521-021-06496-4.
 25. Nogueira Rodríguez, A.; Daniel González, D.; Hugo López Fernández, P.D. *Escola Internacional de Doutoramento DEEP LEARNING TECHNIQUES FOR COMPUTER-AIDED DIAGNOSIS IN COLORECTAL CANCER Dirixida Polos Doutores*;
 26. Nogueira-Rodríguez, A.; Glez-Peña, D.; Reboiro-Jato, M.; López-Fernández, H. Negative Samples for Improving Object Detection—A Case Study in AI-Assisted Colonoscopy for Polyp Detection. *Diagnostics* **2023**, *13*, doi:10.3390/diagnostics13050966.
 27. Nogueira-Rodríguez, A.; Reboiro-Jato, M.; Glez-Peña, D.; López-Fernández, H. Performance of Convolutional Neural Networks for Polyp Localization on Public Colonoscopy Image Datasets. *Diagnostics* **2022**, *12*, doi:10.3390/diagnostics12040898.
 28. Davila-Piñón, P.; Nogueira-Rodríguez, A.; Díez-Martín, A.I.; Codesido, L.; Herrero, J.; Puga, M.; Rivas, L.; Sánchez, E.; Fdez-Riverola, F.; Glez-Peña, D.; et al. Optical Diagnosis in Still Images of Colorectal Polyps: Comparison between Expert Endoscopists and PolyDeep, a Computer-Aided Diagnosis System. *Front Oncol* **2024**, *14*, doi:10.3389/fonc.2024.1393815.
 29. Davila-Piñón, P.; Pedrido, T.; Díez-Martín, A.I.; Herrero, J.; Puga, M.; Rivas, L.; Sánchez, E.; Zarrquiños, S.; Pin, N.; Vega, P.; et al. PolyDeep Advance 1: Clinical Validation of a Computer-Aided Detection System for Colorectal Polyp Detection with a Second Observer Design. *Diagnostics* **2025**, *15*, doi:10.3390/diagnostics15040458.
 30. Maida, M.; Marasco, G.; Maas, M.H.J.; Ramai, D.; Spadaccini, M.; Sinagra, E.; Facciorusso, A.; Siersema, P.D.; Hassan, C. Effectiveness of Artificial Intelligence Assisted Colonoscopy on Adenoma and Polyp Miss Rate: A Meta-Analysis of Tandem RCTs. *Digestive and Liver Disease* **2024**, doi:10.1016/j.dld.2024.09.003.
 31. Makar, J.; Abdelmalak, J.; Con, D.; Hafeez, B.; Garg, M. Use of Artificial Intelligence Improves Colonoscopy Performance in Adenoma Detection: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Gastrointest Endosc* **2024**, doi:10.1016/j.gie.2024.08.033.
 32. Mangas-Sanjuan, C.; de-Castro, L.; Cubiella, J.; Díez-Redondo, P.; Suárez, A.; Pellisé, M.; Fernández, N.; Zarrquiños, S.; Núñez-Rodríguez, H.; Álvarez-García, V.; et al. Role of Artificial Intelligence in

- Colonoscopy Detection of Advanced Neoplasias : A Randomized Trial. *Ann Intern Med* **2023**, doi:10.7326/M22-2619.
33. Cubiella, J.; González, A.; Almazán, R.; Rodríguez-Camacho, E.; Rodiles, J.F.; Ferreiro, C.D.; Sandoval, C.T.; Gómez, C.S.; Bielza, N. de V.; Lorenzo, I.P.R.; et al. Pt1 Colorectal Cancer Detected in a Colorectal Cancer Mass Screening Program: Treatment and Factors Associated with Residual and Extraluminal Disease. *Cancers (Basel)* **2020**, *12*, 1–19, doi:10.3390/cancers12092530.
 34. Ali, M.L.; Zhang, Z. The YOLO Framework: A Comprehensive Review of Evolution, Applications, and Benchmarks in Object Detection. *Computers* **2024**, *13*.
 35. Lalinia, M.; Sahafi, A. Colorectal Polyp Detection in Colonoscopy Images Using YOLO-V8 Network. *Signal Image Video Process* **2024**, *18*, 2047–2058, doi:10.1007/s11760-023-02835-1.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.