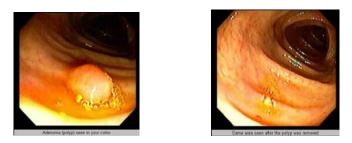
Personalized Letter

Dear [Patient],

Your colonoscopy that [Doctor] performed on [Date] revealed a growth in the large intestine (colon) called a polyp. [Doctor] removed this polyp during your procedure. A picture of your polyp before and after its removal is shown below.



There are two major types of polyps, adenomas and hyperplastic polyps. **Your polyp was found to be an adenoma**. An adenoma is a "pre-cancerous" growth, which means with time it could turn into cancer. In fact, 1 of 10 people with an adenoma may develop colon cancer within 10 years if the adenoma is *not* removed.

[Doctor] completely removed your polyp. However, 3 out of 10 people with an adenoma, like yourself, will develop another adenoma within the next 3-5 years. Any new adenomas can also turn into cancer. It is therefore very important that **you undergo a follow up colonoscopy in [3-5 years]** as we discussed.

Also, because you have had an adenoma, your siblings are [estimated risk, e.g. "about 2 times"] more likely to get colon cancer than the siblings of people without polyps. Your children may also be at increased risk. Therefore, it is important for you to **tell your close family members** about your diagnosis, and **ask them to speak with their own physicians about the need for screening.**

We hope you are doing well, and if you have any questions please contact me at [phone number].

Sincerely,

[Endoscopist]

Colorectal Cancer Risk Estimates for Siblings *

(Personalized Letter)

The following risk estimates are inserted in the sentence:

"Because you have had an adenoma, your siblings may be [2-5 times] more likely to get colon cancer than the siblings of patients without polyps."

Risk Factor	Relative Risk of Sibling
Age of patient at diagnosis of adenoma (yr):	
< 50	4X ↑
50-59	
≥ 60	2X ↑
	No ↑
Parental history of colorectal cancer and	
Adenoma patient < age 50	5X ↑
Adenoma patient 50-59	3X ↑
Adenoma patient ≥ 60	2X ↑

For patients diagnosed at age ≥ 60 with no parental history of colorectal cancer, the relevant line in the personalized letter is revised to state:

"Because you have had an adenoma, your siblings may be more likely to get colon cancer than the siblings of patients without polyps."

Reference: Winawer SJ, Zauber AG, Gerdes H, et al. Risk of colorectal cancer in the families of patients with adenomatous polyps. N. Engl J Med 1996;334;82-7.