Table 1

NICE criteria for urgent referral[30]

Sign, symptom or combination	Age threshold
Rectal bleeding *with* a change in bowel habit to looser stools and/or increasing frequency of defecation, persistent for six weeks	All ages
A definite palpable right-sided abdominal mass	All ages
A definite palpable rectal (not pelvic) mass	All ages
Rectal bleeding persistently *without* anal symptoms (soreness, discomfort, itching, lumps, prolapse, pain)	Over 60 years
Change of bowel habit to looser stools and/or increased frequency of defecation, *without* rectal bleeding and persistent for six weeks	Over 60 years
Iron deficiency anaemia without an obvious cause (Hb < 11g/dl in men and < 10g/dl in postmenopausal women)	No age criterion