Choosing Among CRC Screening Tests
Outline

• Primer on Colorectal Cancer Screening
  • CRC: the numbers
  • CRC: the science
  • Screening and Prevention Approaches
    • Guideline based approach
    • Pros and cons

• Take home points

• Questions and discussion
CRC: The Numbers

**At a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated New Cases in 2019</td>
<td>145,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of All New Cancer Cases</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Deaths in 2019</td>
<td>51,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of All Cancer Deaths</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent Surviving 5 Years**

64.4%

2009-2015
Infamous Cancer in Famous People

President Ronald Reagan 74
Pope John Paul II 72
Vince Lombardi 57
Justice Ginsburg 66
Sharon Osbourne 49
Darryl Strawberry 36
Infamous Cancer in Famous People

- Jay Monahan: 41
- Charles Schulz: 76
- Elizabeth Montgomery: 62
- Audrey Hepburn: 62
- Queen Mother: 66
- Jackie Gleason: 70
Why is CRC Easier to Screen and Prevent?

Adenoma to Carcinoma Sequence

Fewer than 10% of all adenomas become cancerous. However, more than 95% of colorectal cancers develop from adenomas.

Johns Hopkins Online
Villous Adenoma
FIGURE 3. Advanced serrated lesions

A. Arrows delineate the border of a sessile serrated polyp with adherent mucus over the lesion and debris around the perimeter.

B. Right colon sessile serrated polyp with thick layer of adherent mucus – arrows delineate the borders.

C. Arrows delineate edges of a sessile serrated polyp without mucus cap.

D. Sessile serrated polyp without mucus cap, flatter than the lesion seen in image C.

E. Extremely flat, subtle sessile serrated polyp without cytological dysplasia.

F. Sessile serrated polyp with cytological dysplasia. The dysplastic portion is within the yellow line. Arrows mark the perimeter. Black object at bottom is tip of an injection catheter.

Rex, D. PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING. GI & Hepatology News 2019
Colon Cancer
Colon Cancer
CRC: The Numbers

• Rates of new colon cancer
• Down 30%!!! between 2000-2010
  • 50-80 year olds
• Parallels widespread use of colonoscopy
• Success!!
CRC Screening Success!
Not So Fast

• > 20,000,000 eligible Americans are NOT screened
  • Nearly 50% of patients who should be screened
  • Access, cost, reluctance?

• “My doctor didn’t mention it!!”
  • #2 reason given by patients surveyed
  • <10% of patients eligible were told about screening
  • More than half of Medicare patients surveyed had almost 5 visits that year

1. Seeff LC et al., 2004; Shapiro JA et al., 2008; Shapiro JA et al., 2012
2. 2010 NHIS; Klabunde CN et al., submitted
Screening Comparisons

• We can prevent getting colon cancer
  • 60-90% !!!
    • With colonoscopy
    • That’s preventing it, not detecting it early

• Mammogram (50-69 year olds)
  • Death is 40% preventable
  • Mammograms miss 1 in 5 cancers
  • 50% of women will have a false positive over 10 years

• PSA for prostate screening
  • Decreases dying from prostate cancer by 21%

3. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2013
CRC: Younger Patients

• Incidence of colon cancer in patients <50 is rising!

• Between 2008-2011
  • 1 in 7 colon cancers
  • Presented with more advanced disease

2. Prev Chronic Dis. 2015 May 21;12:E80
CRC: Younger Patients

- Predictions by 2030
  - 1 in 4 >1 in 10 of all colon cancers
  - of all rectal cancers
- 20 to 34 years olds
  - Colon cancer
  - Rectal cancer
- 34 to 49 year olds
  - Colon
  - Rectum

CRC: Younger Patients

- Incidence of colon cancer in patients <50 is rising!
- Between 2004-2015, 12% of all CRC occurred in < 50 year olds

John Virostko, Anna Capasso, Thomas E. Yankeelov, Boone Goodgame. *Cancer*, 2019
Figure 2. (A) The proportion of cases of colorectal cancer in the National Cancer Data Base diagnosed before the age of 50 years increased from 2004 to 2015 in both men and women ($P$ for both groups <.0001). (B) Across men and women, the proportion of cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed before the age of 50 years increased in Hispanic whites ($P$ < .05) and non-Hispanic whites ($P$ < .001). (C) Among men, the proportion of cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed before the age of 50 years increased only in non-Hispanic whites ($P$ < .0001). (D) Among women, the proportion of cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed before the age of 50 years increased in Hispanic whites ($P$ < .05) and non-Hispanic whites ($P$ < .001). Error bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals. Note that the error bars are smaller than the points used to display some data.
CRC: Younger Patients

- Reason for increased rates
  - Obesity epidemic
  - Ethnic differences (California database)
    - Higher risk in African Americans
    - Lowest overall rate in Hispanics
      - But greatest acceleration in incidence
  - Undiagnosed hereditary colon cancer syndromes
    - 5-8% of patients
    - 92% of patients would not have a family history
- Environmental exposures
- Antibiotic use?

J Adolesc Young Adult Oncol 3:176-184, 2014.
John Virostko, Anna Capasso, Thomas E. Yankeelov, Boone Goodgame. Cancer, 2019
What Can’t Be Changed

• Age
• Racial & ethnic background
• Personal history of Colon Cancer/Polyps
• Personal history of Ulcerative Colitis or Crohn’s disease of the colon
• Family history of Colon Cancer/Polyps
• Inherited syndromes
  • Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)
  • Lynch Syndrome (HNPCC)

Source: American Cancer Society
What Can Be Changed

• Diet
  • Limit/avoid red meat & processed meat (deli meats)
  • Increase daily vegetables and fiber
• Increased Physical Activity
• Weight loss through proper diet & exercise
• Control Type II Diabetes
• Quit Smoking
• Limit alcohol use
• Get screened for colon cancer

Source: American Cancer Society
Average Risk Screening

• Start at age 50
• African Americans: start at age 45
• American Cancer Society
  • Start at age 45 for everyone
  • Controversial
High Risk Screening

Table 2. Colonoscopy Screening Recommendations Based on Risk Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk factor</th>
<th>Age to initiate screening</th>
<th>Interval if normal (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single first-degree relative with colorectal cancer or an advanced adenoma diagnosed at ≥ 60 years of age</td>
<td>50 years (may start at 45 years in blacks)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single first-degree relative with colorectal cancer or an advanced adenoma diagnosed at &lt; 60 years of age</td>
<td>40 years or 10 years younger than affected relative’s age when diagnosed, whichever is earlier</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two first-degree relatives with colorectal cancer or an advanced adenoma diagnosed at any age</td>
<td>40 years or 10 years younger than the youngest affected relative’s age when diagnosed, whichever is earlier</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: An advanced adenoma is defined as an adenoma that is 10 mm or larger, has villous elements, or has high-grade dysplasia.

## CRC Screening Options

### TABLE 1. Colorectal cancer screening strategies considered appropriate by the US Preventive Services Task Force¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Recommended Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stool-based</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guaiac fecal occult blood test</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIT</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIT-fecal DNA stool test</td>
<td>Annually or every 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Visualization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonoscopy</td>
<td>Every 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computed tomography colonography</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible sigmoidoscopy</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible sigmoidoscopy with FIT</td>
<td>Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>plus FIT annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviation: FIT, fecal immunochemical test.

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CRC Screening Options

**TABLE 2. Ranking of screening tests by the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Test Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1</td>
<td>Colonoscopy every 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FIT annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>FIT-fecal DNA stool test every 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computed tomography colonography every 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5-10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3</td>
<td>Capsule colonoscopy every 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviation: FIT, fecal immunochemical test.

Colonoscopy – The GOLD Standard

• Colonoscopy detects:
  • 3x more advanced lesions than FIT
  • 2x more advanced lesions than FIT-fecal DNA

TABLE 4. Why colonoscopy dominates colorectal cancer screening in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most effective colorectal cancer prevention test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity for polyp detection far exceeds that of all other tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows single-session diagnosis and resection of precancerous lesions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only test with sufficient sensitivity to be performed at a 10-year interval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rex, D. PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING. GI & Hepatology News 2019
Reasons Patients Delay Colonoscopy

• Invasive
• Concern for intolerance of prep
• Concern for safety of procedures
• Self-conscious of body image
• Logistics
  • Day off work plus driver
• Costs
  • High deductible or co-pays
Colonoscopy Risks

• Major complications for average risk screening
• Cardiopulmonary
  • < 1%
• Perforation (0.3-0.07%)
  • 1 in 2,000 is considered standard of care (0.05%)

Source: ASGE Guidelines 2011
Colonoscopy Risks

• Major Bleeding After a Polyp is Removed
  • Standard of care: 1 in 100 (1%)
  • ASGE: 2 in 1,000 (0.5%)

• Death directly attributable to colonoscopy
  • 19 in 284,000, or 0.007%

Source: ASGE Guidelines 2011
Colonoscopy Summary

• Safe & well tolerated
• By far the most sensitive test
• The only test that prevents colon cancer
• Should be the first test offered to average risk patients
• The only test recommended for high risk patients
• Should be done by high performing GI
Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)

• Stool test that checks for
  • Hemoglobin
• Assumes cancers will bleed
• Once a year
• Requires stool sample be obtained
FIT Testing

• Threshold for detection of hemoglobin
  • 20 μg/gram feces

• Advantages
  • Done at home
  • Low cost - $22
  • Better adherence in organized settings (Kaiser)

• If threshold for hemoglobin 10 μg/gram feces
  • Sensitivity for cancer  91%
  • Specificity for cancer  90%
FIT Testing - Take Home Points

• Low cost
• Easy to use
• Good (but not great) sensitivity for CRC
  • Much improved if decreased for hemoglobin threshold
• Colonoscopy is needed if test is positive
• Only prevents cancer when it results in colonoscopy
FIT-Fecal DNA Test (Cologuard®)

Cologuard results should be interpreted with caution as false positives and false negatives do occur. Cologuard performance in repeat testing has not been evaluated.
FIT-Fecal DNA

• Combination of FIT-fecal DNA
  • Fecal DNA
    • Methylation Markers

• Intended for:
  • Average risk colon cancer screening (ages 50-85)

• Cologuard is NOT recommended if:
  • Adenomas on prior colonoscopies
  • Family history of colon cancer or advanced polyps
FIT-Fecal DNA

• If FIT-fecal DNA is negative (normal)
  • Needs to be repeated every 3 years

• Advantages over colonoscopy:
  • Done at home
  • No preparation needed
  • No days off work
  • No driver needed

• Colonoscopy is needed if test is positive
# CRC Screening Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Finds Colon Cancer</th>
<th>Finds High Risk Polyps (&gt;10mm)</th>
<th>False Positives</th>
<th>False Negatives (Cancer Miss Rate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIT-fecal DNA</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>Misses 1 in 13 Cancers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fit Testing</td>
<td>75-80%</td>
<td>30%-40%</td>
<td>&lt;4%</td>
<td>Misses 1 in 5 Cancers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonoscopy</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>0-6%** Interval Cancers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


FIT-Fecal DNA Misses Polyps and Cancer

More than 30% of polyps that will soon become cancer

### TABLE 5. Advantages and limitations of the FIT-fecal DNA stool test for colorectal cancer screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noninvasive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High (92%) sensitivity for cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended at 3-year intervals (compared to 1 year for FIT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less sensitive for cancer than high-quality colonoscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less sensitive for adenomas and serrated lesions than colonoscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High (12%) false-positive rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False-positive rate increases with patient age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expensive ($500) compared to FIT ($22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of the sensitivity derives from the FIT, which itself is inexpensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominated by FIT in cost models: FIT is more effective and cost-effective than the FIT-fecal DNA test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No evidence to support use outside of screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basis for positive results (FIT or DNA stool tests, or both) is not reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonoscopy for positive FIT-fecal DNA test is considered &quot;diagnostic&quot;; patient might incur substantial out-of-pocket cost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviation:** FIT, fecal immunochemical test.
FIT-Fecal DNA Take Home Points

• Easier than a colonoscopy
• Misses in 1 in 13 colon cancers
• Misses > 30% of polyps that will become cancer
• Misses almost 60% of polyps that could turn into cancer
• Only prevents colon cancer if it results in colonoscopy and polyp removal

FIT-Fecal DNA Take Home Points

• Easier than a colonoscopy
• Misses in 1 in 13 colon cancers
• Misses > 30% of polyps that will become cancer
• Misses almost 60% of polyps that could turn into cancer
• Only prevents colon cancer if it results in colonoscopy and polyp removal

Take Home Points

• Colon cancer is common and deadly
• Colon cancer rates are rising for younger patients
• Colon cancer and death is nearly entirely **preventable**
• But 50% of eligible patients are not screened
• ANY SCREENING IS BETTER THAN NO SCREENING...but
Take Home Points

• Colonoscopy remains the only test that prevents cancer of entire colon.
  • Start at age 50
  • African Americans - begin at age 45
  • Family history of colon cancer/advanced polyps
  • Colonoscopy age 40 or 10 years before diagnosis
    • Whichever is younger

• For patients who refuse colonoscopy
  • FIT testing every year is the next recommendation

Then...

• FIT-Fecal DNA
  • Important alternative test with important limitations