



Congratulations to Southwest Healthcare Services, Bowman, ND, on achieving the Copper Milestone! Best wishes on achieving the goals set in your action plan.



News, etc.

Bad Outcomes for Patients Not Undergoing Colonoscopy After Positive Fecal Immunochemical Test

Douglas K. Rex, MD, MASGE reviewing Zorzi M, et al. *Gut* 2021 Mar 31.

In an Italian study using a fecal immunochemical test (FIT)-positivity cutoff of 20 µg Hb/g feces, 88,013 FIT-positive patients (79%) underwent colonoscopy, and 23,410 (21%) did not. The 10-year cumulative incidence of colorectal cancer (CRC) was 44.7 per 1000 among colonoscopy compliers and 54.3 per 1000 in noncompliers. CRC mortality in compliers was 6.8 per 1000, whereas in noncompliers, it was 16.0 per 1000, a rate that was 103% higher than that in the colonoscopy compliers. The fraction of CRC diagnosed less than 1 year after a positive FIT was 90.1% in compliers and 62.9% in noncompliers (P<.0001). All-cause mortality was 83.4 per 1000 in compliers and 164.2 per 1000 in noncompliers.

Comment: The higher all-cause mortality in noncompliers suggests that noncompliance with colonoscopy after a positive FIT is a marker for poor health and risk of death. The 79% compliance rate is high and near the 80% minimum quality threshold set by the U.S. Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer. Despite that, we have seen recent studies from the U.S. that report achieving less than 50% compliance with colonoscopy after a positive FIT. In an organized screening program, navigation of the process for completing colonoscopy in FIT-positive patients seems mandatory.

Zorzi M, Battagello J, Selby K, et al. Non-compliance with colonoscopy after a positive faecal immunochemical test doubles the risk of dying from colorectal cancer. *Gut* 2021 Mar 31. (Epub ahead of print) (<https://doi.org/10.1136/gutjnl-2020-322192>)

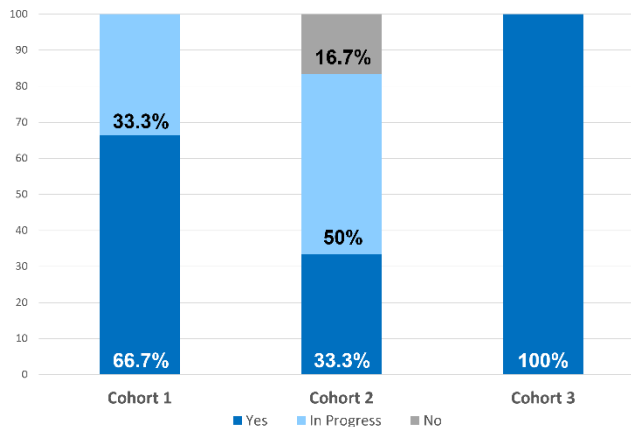
Featured Resource

Not All FIT Tests Are the Same

It is important to note that not all FITs are equally effective. As of July 2016, there are 26 FDA-cleared FITs available for purchase in the US, however, most do not have published data on their performance for detection of cancer. To assist with choosing a FIT for use in your setting, the ACS provides information on those that have published data on sensitivity and specificity for cancer. Learn more in this Clinician's Reference: [Stool-based tests for Colorectal Cancer Screening](#).

Dashboard

Screend Participants | CRC Screening Policy in Place Status



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It struck us that these patients were younger, they had fewer comorbidities, they had better performance status and were more physically active and less side effects from the treatment, but their survival was exactly the same."

~Kimmie Ng, Director of the Dana-Farber's Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer Center (discussing the alarming trend in colorectal cancer cases under 35 years old)

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