



# 2021 SCSG GI SYMPOSIUM



# Best of DDW Colorectal Cancer Abstracts: Screening & Surveillance

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# Financial Disclosures

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## **Consultant**

- Colorectal Cancer Alliance

# Objectives

- Review colorectal cancer (CRC) screening tests and current recommendations on test use
- Discuss DDW abstracts on non-invasive CRC screening test use
- Review the 2020 USMSTF polypectomy surveillance guidelines
- Discuss emerging topics on surveillance from DDW



# Colorectal cancer is preventable but...

**2<sup>nd</sup>** leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.

**150,000** diagnoses in 2021

**53,000** deaths in 2021

**35%** adults 50-75 years never screened



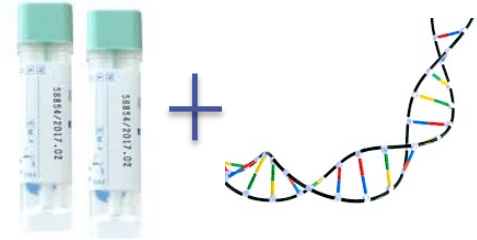
# Overview of colorectal cancer screening tests



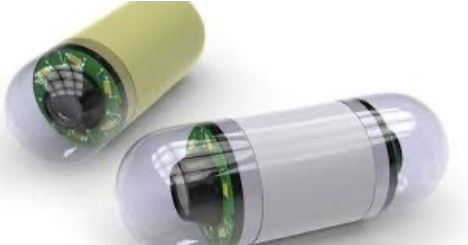
gFOBT



Fecal Immunochemical  
Test (FIT)



Mt-sDNA



Capsule  
Endoscopy



CT Colonography



Colonoscopy  
Flexible Sigmoidoscopy



# What is the best colorectal cancer screening test?

## U.S. Multi-Society Task Force

### Tier 1

- Colonoscopy every 10 years
- Annual Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)

### Tier 2

- CT Colonography every 5 years
- FIT-DNA every 3 years
- Flexible Sigmoidoscopy every 5-10 years

### Tier 3

- Capsule endoscopy every 5 years

### Not Recommended

- Septin9



# What is the best colorectal cancer screening test?

## U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

“The risks and benefits of different screening tests vary. Because of limited evidence, the USPSTF recommendation does not include serum tests, urine tests or capsule endoscopy for colorectal cancer screening.”



# What is the best colorectal cancer screening test?

## U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

- HSgFOBT or FIT – every 1 year
- Stool DNA-FIT – every 1 to 3 years
- CT colonography – every 5 years
- Flex Sig – every 5 years
- Flex Sig – every 5 years + annual FIT
- Colonoscopy – every 10 years

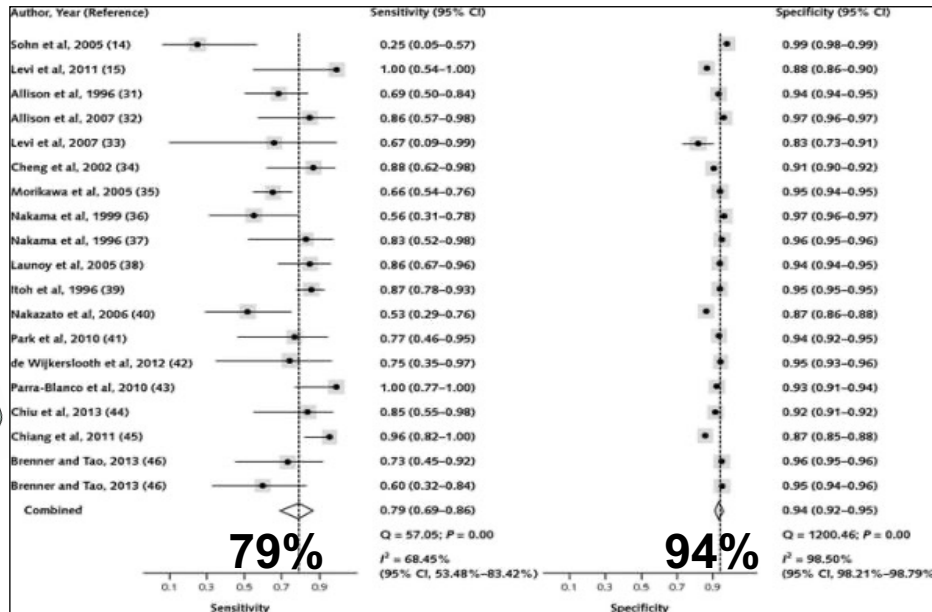
# Fecal immunochemical test (FIT)

## STOOL-BASED TESTS

FOBT

**FIT**

FIT-DNA



\*\*20µg/g stool

Compared to colonoscopy:

- FIT correctly detected **79%** of colorectal cancer cases
- FIT was normal **94%** of the time when cancer was not present





# Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on a Large Organized Colorectal Cancer Screening Program Based on Fecal Immunochemical Testing and Opportunistic Colonoscopy

Theodore R. Levin, Christopher D. Jensen, Amy R. Marks, Wei K. Zhao, Kevin T. Kao, Dan Li, Jeffrey K. Lee, Joanne E. Schottinger, Nirupa R. Ghai, Richard Contreras, Yi-Fen Chen, Smita Rouillard, Jessica Badalov, Evan Layefsky, Cheryl M. Carlson, Ngoc J. Ho, Douglas A. Corley

## BACKGROUND AND AIMS:

- Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KPNC) has a well-established organized colorectal cancer (CRC) screening program based on annual mailed fecal immunochemical test (FIT) outreach and opportunistic colonoscopy.
- Public health guidance related to the COVID-19 pandemic led to a pause in KPNC mailed FIT outreach and elective colonoscopies starting in March 2020.
- This study evaluated the impact of the pandemic on 2020 CRC screening measures compared to the two prior years (2018 and 2019).

## METHODS:

- For 2018, 2019, and 2020, we evaluated the following screening measures:
  - Screening eligible population based on 51-75 years of age, enrolled in current and previous year, and no history of total colectomy
  - Up-to-date with screening due to colonoscopy within past 9 years or sigmoidoscopy within past 4 years
  - Remainder of population eligible for screening as of January 1 for each measurement year
  - FIT kit distributed
  - Completed a FIT
  - Completed a follow-up colonoscopy after a positive FIT
  - Completed a colonoscopy unrelated to a positive FIT
  - Up to date with screening by year end

## RESULTS:

Table 1. CRC Screening Measures by Year

	2018 n	(%)	2019 n	(%)	2020 n	(%)
Screening eligible population	1,092,464		1,130,055		1,158,923	
Up-to-date with screening due to prior endoscopy	337,952	(30.9)	347,892	(30.8)	357,919	(30.9)
Remainder of population eligible for screening	754,512	(69.1)	782,163	(69.2)	801,004	(69.1)
Colonoscopy or flex sigmoid instead of FIT	18,114	(2.4)	20,105	(2.6)	14,541	(1.8)
FIT kit distributed	637,082	(84.4)	692,804	(88.6)	712,578	(89.0)
FIT completed by end of year	503,824	(79.1)	515,952	(74.5)	459,372	(64.5)
FIT positive	17,750	(3.5)	17,880	(3.5)	15,575	(3.4)
FIT+ colonoscopy by end of year	13,604	(76.6)	13,604	(76.1)	10,484	(67.3)
FIT+ colonoscopy by end of following March	14,630	(82.4)	14,645	(81.9)	12,388	(79.5)
Total up-to-date with screening by end of year	859,890	(78.7)	883,949	(78.2)	831,832	(71.8)

Figure 1. Eligible Members Mailed a FIT Kit, by Month

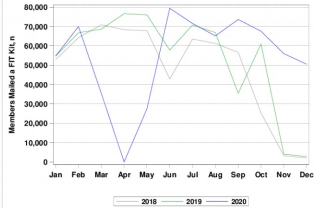


Figure 2. FITs Completed, by Month

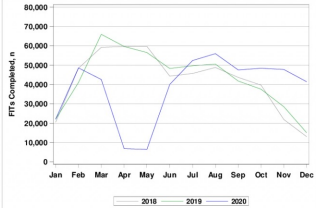


Figure 3. Colonoscopy After a Positive FIT, by Month

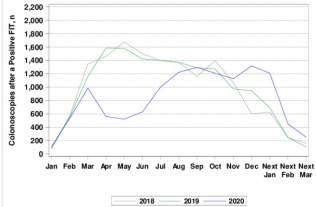


Figure 4. Colonoscopies, All Indications, by Month

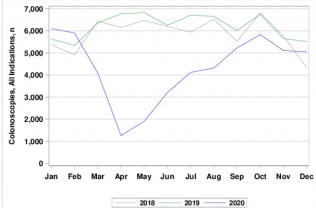


Figure 5. CRC Screening Eligible Population, by Age (Years)

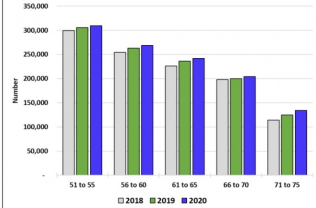


Figure 6. CRC Screening Up-to-Date by Year End, by Age (Years)

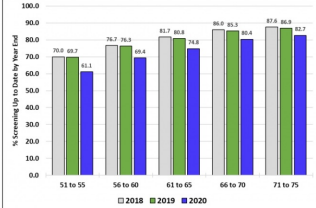


Figure 7. CRC Screening Eligible Population, by Race/Ethnicity

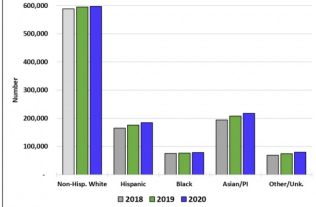
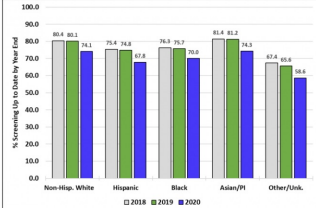


Figure 8. CRC Screening Up-to-Date, by Race/Ethnicity



## CONCLUSIONS:

- The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 resulted in temporary delays in the mailing and return of FITs, colonoscopy follow-up after a positive FIT, and colonoscopies for all indications compared to prior years.
- The KPNC organized CRC screening program allowed for the rapid resumption of mailed FIT and colonoscopy starting in April/May 2020.
- FIT completions lagged resumption of FIT kit distributions, likely in part due to patient reluctance to complete screening during the pandemic; completions were ~10% lower in 2020 compared to prior years.
- The completion of FIT-positive colonoscopies was ~9% lower at year end 2020 compared to prior years but was nearly caught up by March 2021.
- Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 resulted in a ~6% decrease in screening-up-to-date status by the end of 2020 compared to prior years. The impact of the pandemic on screening delays was similar across age and racial/ethnic groups.
- Our next step is to assess the impact of screening delays on CRC outcomes.

# Multi target stool-DNA

## STOOL-BASED TESTS

FOBT  
FIT

**FIT-DNA**



	FIT*	FIT-DNA
Sensitivity	79%	92%
Specificity	94%	87%
Test Interval	1-year	3-years
Cost	\$25	\$595-\$695

\*cutoff at 20µg/g of stool

# Multi target stool-DNA

	USPSTF 2021	ACG 2021	NCCN 2020	ACP 2019	ACS 2018	USMSTF 2017
Recommend for screening	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Starting age	45	45	50	--	45	50 (45)
Testing interval	1 to 3 years	3 years	3 years	--	3 years	3 years
Caveats/ comments		If unwilling to complete colonoscopy				Tier 2



## PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES

Stool DNA sampling has been extensively ordered by primary care providers, with FDA approval for patients 45 years or older, at average risk for colorectal cancer. This study focuses on Mt-sDNA (MsD) tests ordered by providers in a large, single-specialty gastroenterology group, including indications, appropriateness of use, and adenoma and adenocarcinoma rates with both positive and negative CG results.

## MATERIAL & METHODS

We identified charts of 1266 patients, cared for by Texas Digestive Disease Consultants (TDDC) providers, for whom MsD was ordered by their TDDC gastroenterologists between 2015 and 2019. Indications for ordering MsD were identified, and results of follow-up colonoscopies for positive MsD tests were reviewed to calculate rates of adenomatous polyps and adenocarcinomas. Colonoscopies performed within three years of patients with negative MsD testing were also reviewed. Rates of appropriate MsD use were calculated, based on FDA-approved screening indications. Reasons for non-screening MsD were also calculated.

## RESULTS

MsD was appropriately ordered by TDDC providers in 811 (64.1%) patients, and not appropriately in 455 (35.9%) of patients. Of the latter cohort, 73% were ordered because of physician discretion, including patients not yet due for screening, with past histories of colorectal adenoma or adenocarcinoma, with family history of colorectal cancer, for symptoms including weight loss, hematochezia, abdominal pain, for heme-positive stools, for IBD surveillance, and in patients older than 85 years. 27% of the inappropriate cohort had MsD ordered because of patient insistence, with similar indications as the physician-discretion group (Figure 1). 917 patients completed MsD testing, of whom 194 (21.2%) had positive results, with 151 patients having follow-up colonoscopy. Of these, 77 (51.0%) were diagnosed with adenomatous polyps, 4 (2.64%) with adenocarcinoma, and 70 (46.4%) with no adenoma or adenocarcinoma. 723 (78.8%) of patients had negative MsD testing, with 21 having colonoscopies within three years thereafter. 7 (33.3%) were diagnosed with adenomas, but none with adenocarcinoma (Table 1).

**While Mt-sDNA can identify patients at risk for colorectal neoplasia and carcinoma, gastroenterologists need to remain cognizant of its appropriate use.**

## RESULTS

Figure 1

- Appropriate in 811 (64.1%)
- Not appropriate in 455 (35.9%)
  - 73% with CG ordered by physician discretion
    - 141 pts (42.5%) not yet due for screening
    - 60 pts (18.1%) with PMH of adenoma or colorectal cancer
    - 22 pts (6.63%) with FMH of colorectal cancer
    - 90 pts (27.1%) with symptoms – weight loss, hematochezia, abdominal pain
    - 51 pts (9.34%) with heme-positive stools or anemia
    - 2 pts (0.60%) with long-term IBD
    - 5 pts (1.50%) above age 85
    - 23 pts (6.93%) with multiple reasons
  - 123 patients, (27.0%) ordered from patient insistence
    - 11 (8.94%) not yet due for screening
    - 80 (65.0%) with PMH of adenoma or colorectal cancer
    - 13 (10.6%) with FMH of colorectal cancer
    - 1 (0.81%) for symptoms
    - 22 (17.9%) with heme-positive stools or anemia
    - 4 (3.25%) with FMH of long-term IBD
    - 3 (2.44%) above age 85
    - 2 (1.62%) repeat CG after positive CG test
    - 2 (1.62%) with multiple reasons

Table 1

Mt-sDNA result	No adenoma or carcinoma identified	Adenoma(s) identified	Carcinoma identified
Positive	46.4%	51.0%	2.64%
Negative	66.7%	33.3%	0.00%

## SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

Only about two thirds Mt-sDNA testing ordered by gastroenterologists, within a large, single-specialty practice, was appropriate per FDA screening guidelines. In patients with positive results, 51% had adenomatous polyps, and 2.6% had newly diagnosed adenocarcinomas. In those with negative results but undergoing colonoscopy within three years, one-third had adenomatous polyps, but none were diagnosed with cancer. These findings are consistent with prior Mt-sDNA studies but highlight the need for education regarding appropriateness of use by both primary-care providers and gastroenterologists.

# Blood Test Increases Colorectal Cancer Screening Uptake in Individuals Who Have Declined Colonoscopy and Fecal Immunochemical Testing: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Peter S. Liang<sup>1,2</sup>, Anika Zaman<sup>1,2</sup>, Anne Kaminsky<sup>1</sup>, YongYan Cui<sup>2</sup>, Gabriel Castillo<sup>2</sup>, Craig T. Tenner<sup>1,2</sup>, Scott E. Sherman<sup>1,2</sup>, Jason A. Dominitz<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>VA New York Harbor Health Care System <sup>2</sup>NYU Langone Health <sup>3</sup>University of Washington <sup>4</sup>VA Puget Sound Health Care System



## BACKGROUND

In 2018, only 69% of Americans aged 50-75 years were up-to-date with colorectal cancer (CRC) screening

Blood tests may increase screening uptake by offering an alternative to 1<sup>st</sup> line screening tests (e.g., colonoscopy & fecal immunochemical testing (FIT))

The only FDA-approved blood test for CRC screening is indicated for patients who have declined 1st line screening tests

Objective: Assess effect of offering blood test on CRC screening uptake in individuals who've previously declined colonoscopy & FIT (NCT03598166)

## METHODS

### Design

RCT comparing outreach re-offering colonoscopy/FIT (control) vs additionally offering blood test as secondary option (intervention)

### Inclusion criteria

- Patient at single VA medical center
- Age 50-75
- Average risk for CRC
- Eligible for screening
- Declined colonoscopy & FIT in prior 6 months per medical record

## Figure 1. Study Flowchart

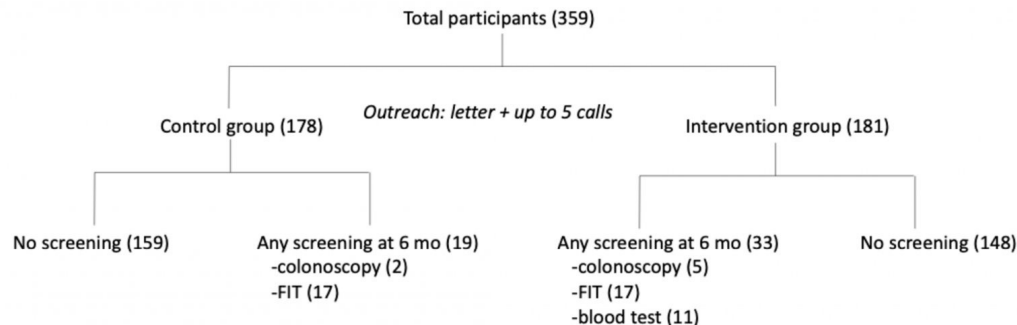
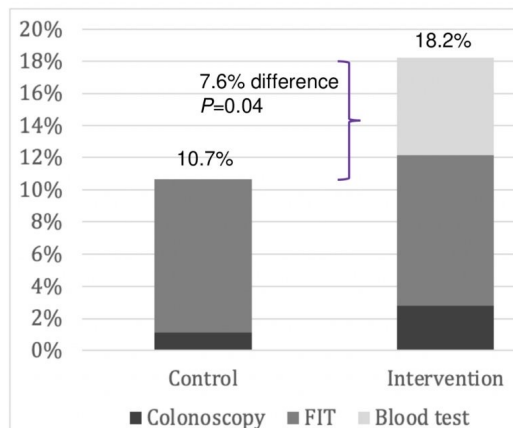


Table 1. Demographics

	Control (n=178)	Intervention (n=181)
<b>Age Group</b>		
50-59	38 (21.3%)	49 (27.1%)
60-69	78 (43.8%)	70 (38.7%)
70-75	62 (34.8%)	62 (34.3%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	171 (96.1%)	172 (95.0%)
Female	7 (3.9%)	9 (5.0%)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Non-Hispanic White	68 (38.2%)	62 (34.3%)
Non-Hispanic Black	70 (39.3%)	77 (42.5%)
Hispanic	26 (14.6%)	29 (16%)
Asian	3 (1.7%)	2 (1.1%)
Pacific Islander	1 (0.6%)	3 (1.7%)
Unknown	10 (5.6%)	8 (4.4%)

Figure 2. Screening at 6 months (primary outcome)



## RESULTS

Individuals who **expressed interest in CRC screening**: 76/359 (21.3%)  
 19 (5.3%) for colonoscopy  
 33 (9.2%) for FIT  
 22 (12.2% of intervention group) for blood test

### Test positivity rate

FIT: 8.8% vs blood test: 18.2%

Secondary outcome: Completed **full screening strategy** at 6 months (positive FIT/blood test followed by colonoscopy)  
 Intervention group: 15.5% vs. Control group: 10.1% (P=0.13)

**Sensitivity analysis** excluding participants whose 6 month follow up period overlapped with COVID-19 pandemic in NYC (n=318)  
 Intervention group: 19.9% vs. Control group: 9.6% (P=0.01)

## CONCLUSIONS

Among individuals who've previously declined colonoscopy/FIT, offering blood test as secondary option increased screening by 8%

In those offered blood test, colonoscopy & FIT use did not decrease

Funding: NYSGE/ASGE Florence Lefcourt Endoscopy Research Award, Epigenomics

# Non-invasive screening tests require two steps

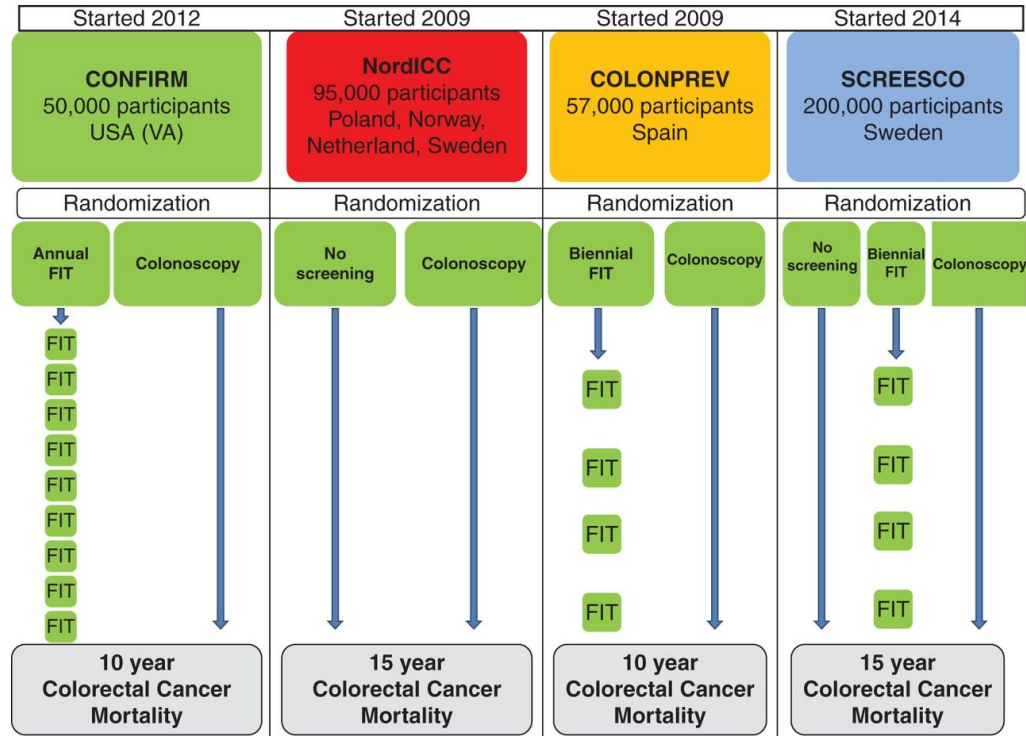


**Abnormal screening  
result**



**Colonoscopy to detect  
high-risk lesions or  
colorectal cancer**

# Ongoing randomized trials of colonoscopy

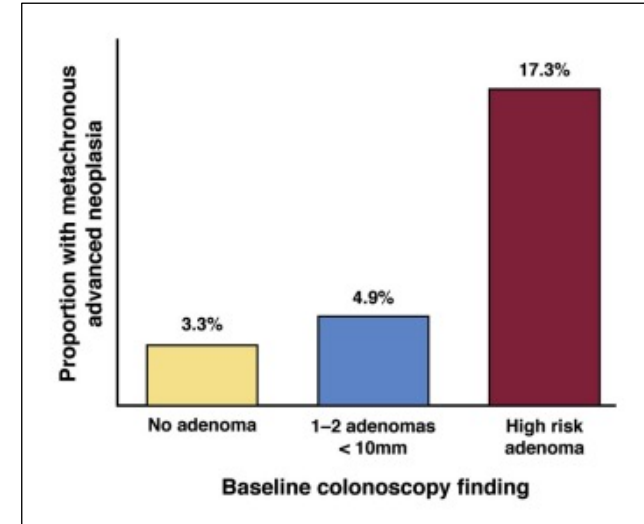
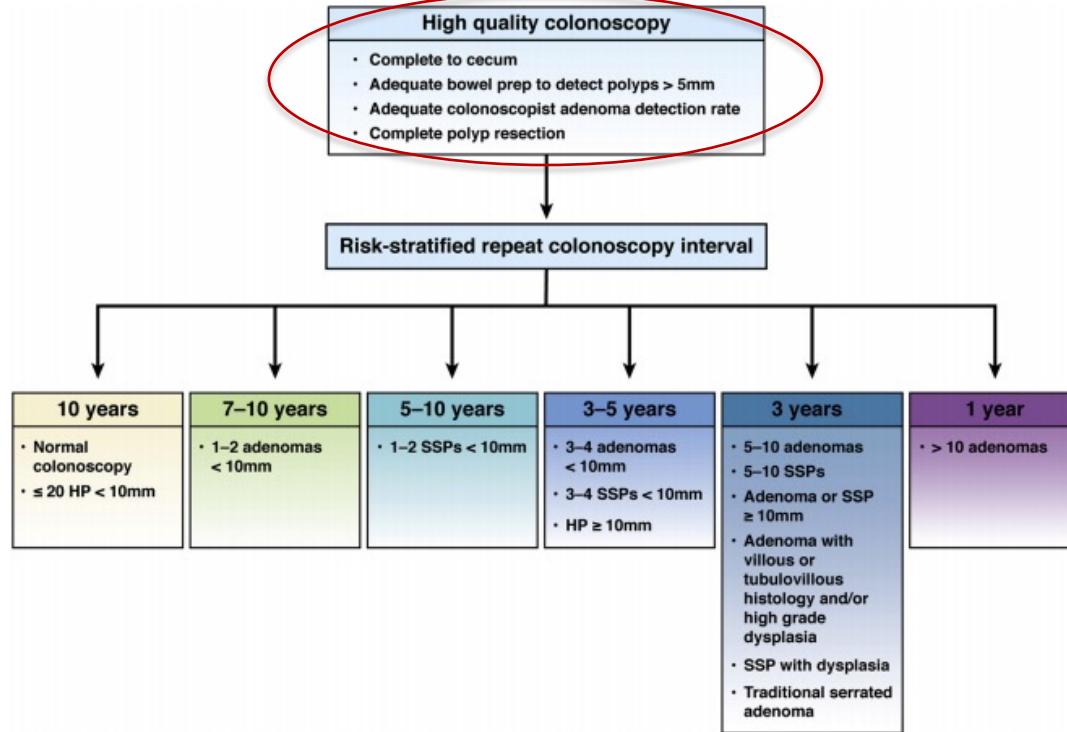




The background image shows a coastal landscape with a green overlay on the left side. In the foreground, there are dense green bushes and some blue flowers. The middle ground features a sandy beach, a rocky shoreline, and a line of palm trees. The ocean is visible in the background, with waves breaking. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

# Best of DDW Colorectal Cancer Abstracts: Surveillance

# 2020 Polypectomy Surveillance Guidelines



# Challenges with post-polypectomy surveillance

- Current guidelines for risk stratification for post-polypectomy surveillance are imprecise
  - Sensitivity 59-81%
  - Specificity 43-58%
- Leads to under-surveillance of low-risk individuals and over-surveillance of high-risk individuals
- Based only on number, size, and histology of polyps

# Prediction model for metachronous advanced neoplasia after polypectomy

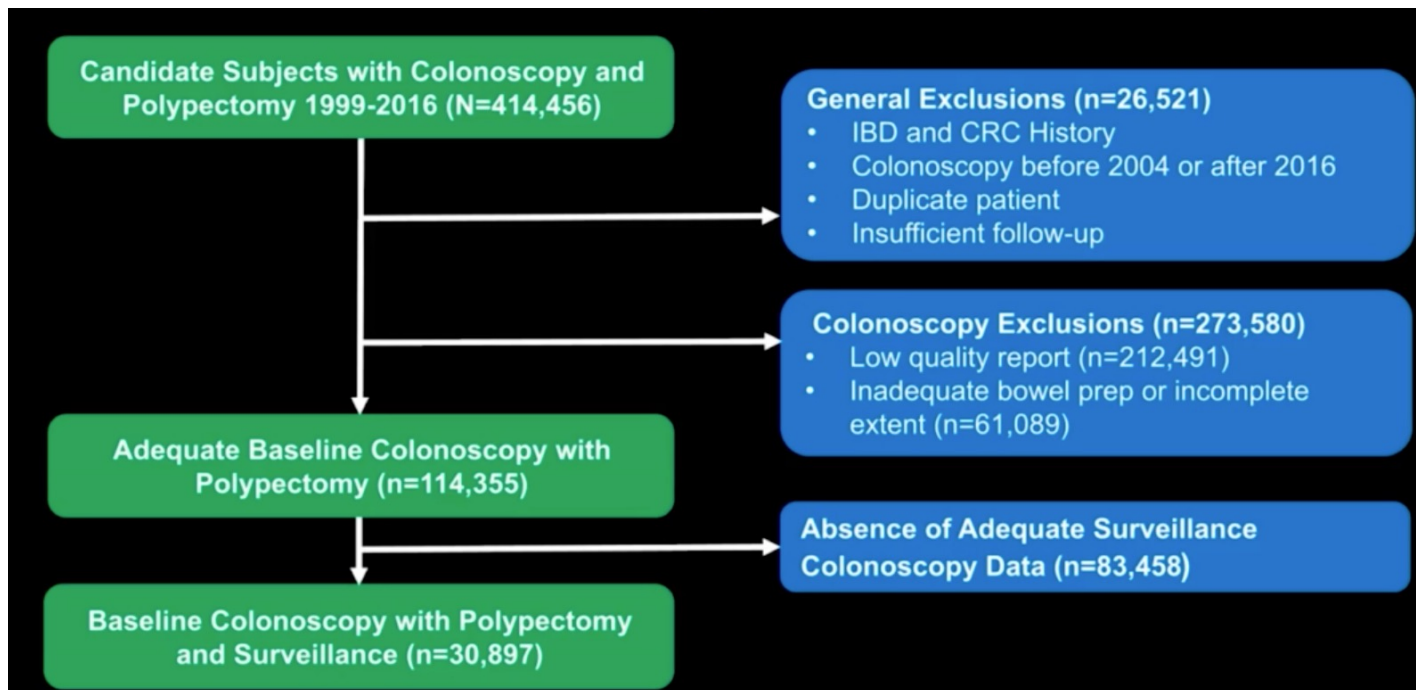
## Design

- Retrospective national cohort study of US Veterans exposed to colonoscopy (VA Colonoscopy Cohort)
  - Curated structured data
    - Demographics, comorbidities, smoking exposure, medications incident and fatal colorectal cancer (CRC)
  - Extracted unstructured colonoscopy and pathology report data utilizing PaCRAT (Pathology and Colonoscopy Report Abstraction Tool):
    - System of natural language processing algorithms and data curation developed to extract exam extent, bowel preparation, number, size, histology, and location of polyps
- Inclusion Criteria:
  - Baseline polypectomy 2004-2016, defined by either adenoma or sessile serrated adenoma/polyp/lesion removal; and
  - $\geq 1$  surveillance colonoscopy
- Exclusion Criteria:
  - Baseline incomplete exam or inadequate bowel preparation
  - Baseline/prior CRC or inflammatory bowel disease





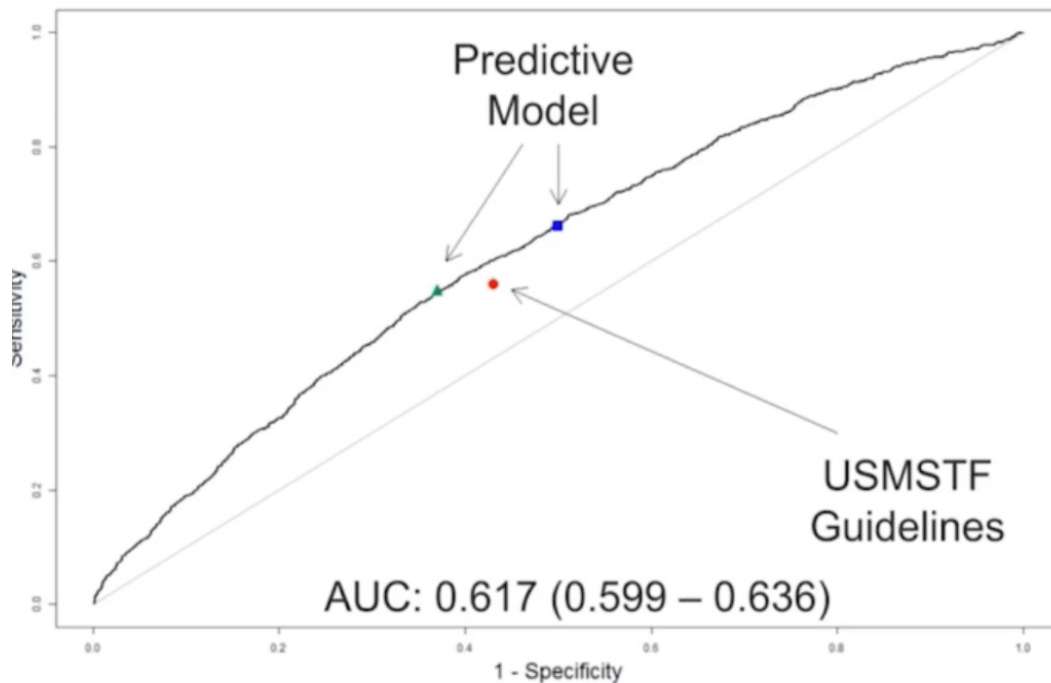
# Study inclusion and exclusion flow



# Diabetes, gender, ADR were associated with developing metachronous lesions

Association of Included Variables with MAN (Training Data)			
Predictor	Multivariable OR	Predictor	Multivariable OR
<b>Age</b>	1.02 (1.01, 1.03)*	<b>Sex</b>	
<b>Diabetes</b>	1.41 (1.27, 1.56)*	Male	1.99 (1.38, 2.88)*
<b>Number of adenomas</b>		Female	1.00
Zero (SSA/P only)	0.47 (0.19, 1.16)	<b>Adenoma size</b>	
One-Two	1.00	< 10 mm	1.00
Three-Four	1.22 (1.06, 1.39)*	≥ 10 mm	1.54 (1.38, 1.73)*
More than Four	1.61 (1.33, 1.95)*	Missing	0.84 (0.72, 0.97)*
<b>Location, n (%)</b>		<b>ADR quintile, n (%)</b>	
None	1.00	Q1 (<19.7%)	1.48 (1.20, 1.84)*
Proximal only	1.08 (0.91, 1.27)	Q2 (19.7-32.1%)	1.66 (1.42, 1.94)*
Rectal/distal only	1.05 (0.93, 1.19)	Q3 (32.2-39.2%)	1.49 (1.30, 1.72)*
Both	0.87 (0.76, 0.99)*	Q4 (39.3-46.9%)	1.00 (0.87, 1.15)
<b>Tubulovillous/villous</b>	1.31 (1.16, 1.49)*	Q5 (≥47.0%)	1.00
		Missing	1.11 (0.96, 1.28)

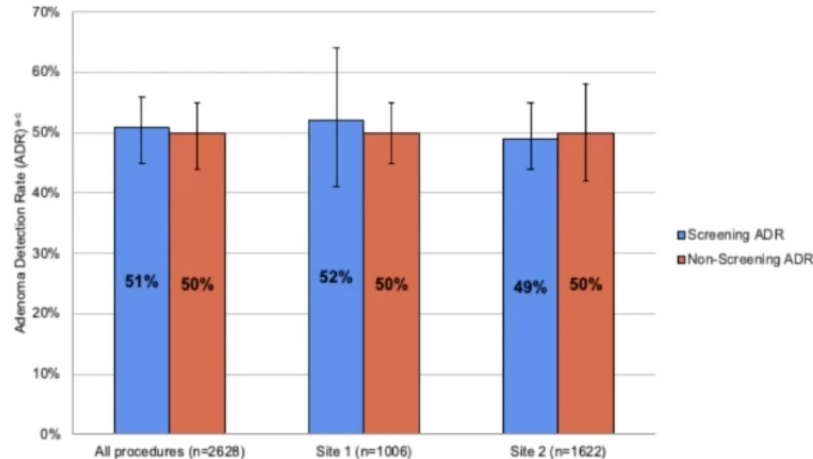
# Novel model performed better across a range of cutoffs



# Non-screening adenoma detection rate as a quality indicator

## Adenoma Detection Rate (ADR) Irrespective of Indication Is Comparable to Screening ADR: Implications for Quality Monitoring

Tonya Kaltenbach,<sup>a</sup> Andrew Gawron,<sup>†</sup> Craig S. Meyer,<sup>\*</sup> Samir Gupta,<sup>§</sup> Amandeep Shergill,<sup>\*</sup> Jason A. Dominitz,<sup>||</sup> Roy M. Soetikno,<sup>\*</sup> Tiffany Nguyen-Vu,<sup>\*</sup> Mary Whooley,<sup>\*</sup> and Charles Kahi<sup>§</sup>



- Among 2628 colonoscopies and 21 endoscopists at 2 Veterans Affairs centers, we found no significant differences between screening ADR and non-screening ADR
- Simulation modeling with varying distributions of indication showed similar results for screening and overall ADR
- Overall ADR, irrespective of indication, is comparable to Screening ADR and should facilitate the broader implementation of quality measurement and reporting

<sup>a</sup>Adenoma detection rates adjusted for sex (male / female) and age (years), and standard errors clustered by endoscopist.

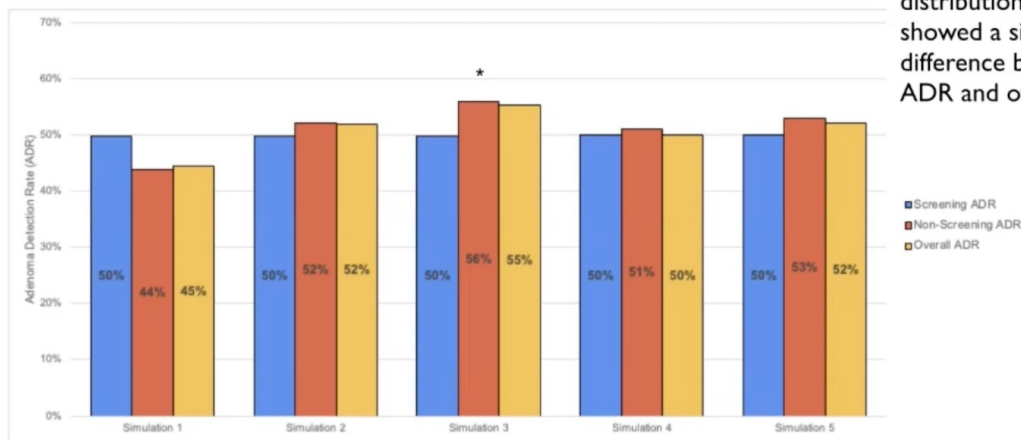
<sup>†</sup>Studies for positive fecal immunochemical test were classified as diagnostic exams.

<sup>||</sup>Indication distribution: Screening in 28.9%, Surveillance in 48.2%, Diagnostic in 22.9%



# Non-screening adenoma detection rate as a quality indicator

## Simulation Models



Out of 21 total simulations with varying indication distributions, only one model\* showed a significant difference between screening ADR and overall ADR.

Simulation 1 (Screening 10%, Surveillance 10%, and Diagnostic 80%); Simulation 2 (Screening 10%, Surveillance 60%, and Diagnostic 30%); Simulation 3 (Screening 10%, Surveillance 70%, Diagnostic 10%, FIT+ 10%); Simulation 4 (Screening 30%, Surveillance 40% ; Diagnostic 30%); Simulation 5 (Screening 20%; Surveillance 60% ; Diagnostic 20%)

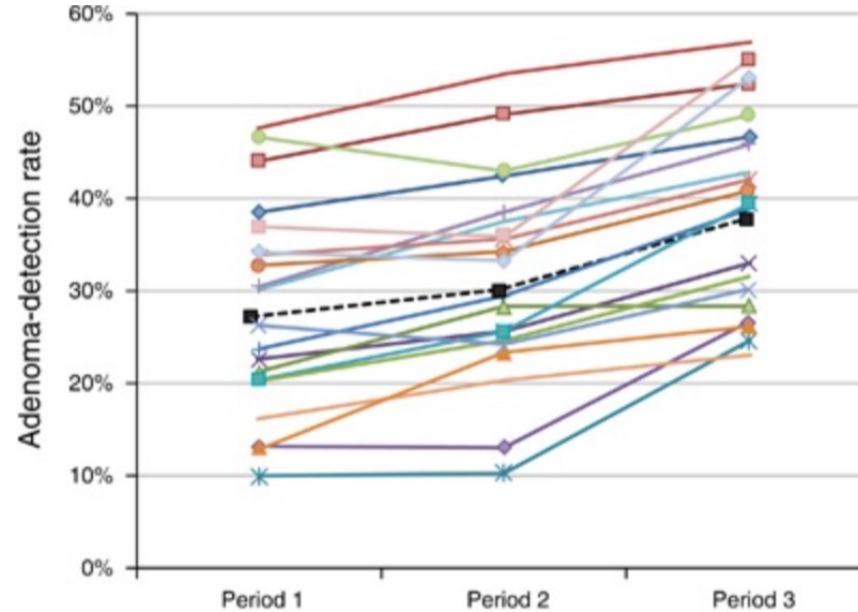


# The endoscopist is the key variable in colonoscopy quality

## Inspection Tips for High Quality Colonoscopy

Mindset	1	Know the signature features of adenomas and serrated lesions
	2	Look for subtle lesions - think flat and depressed
Technique	3	Maintain a straight scope
	4	Clean the mucosa
	5	Look behind folds
	6	Expand & collapse the lumen
	7	Take adequate time - but be efficient with a plan
	8	Spend most time in the right colon - examine twice
Tools	9	Know when need adjustment- lighting, cap, chromoendoscopy
	10	Engage in quality assurance program

# Audit & feedback improves colonoscopy quality



# CRC screening & surveillance



“The best test is the one that gets done,  
and done well”

Sidney Winawer, MD  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center





# Thank you!

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