Colorectal cancer screening in Europe: differences in approach; similar barriers to overcome

Nicholas J. West • Christian Boustière •
Wolfgang Fischbach • Fabrizio Parente •
Roger J. Leicester

Published online: 2 July 2009
© Springer-Verlag 2009

Erratum to: Int J Colorectal Dis DOI 10.1007/s00384-009-0690-6

The section ‘The Lecco colorectal cancer screening programme’ and Table 4 have incorrect data. The highlighted areas of text specifically are the corrections.

The Lecco colorectal cancer screening program

The programme has been organised in this pilot area (one of the eleven provinces of Lombardy) according to the schedule of conditions defined by Regional Health Authorities. It commenced in February 2006 using faecal occult blood

testing every two years in the target population followed by total colonoscopy in FOBT-positive individuals.

The target population for screening comprises 80,915 men and women aged between 50 and 69 years resident in the Province. Criteria for exclusion are: history of colorectal adenoma or cancer, known inflammatory colonic disease and recent, (within 3 years) well-documented complete colonoscopy.

For the period 2006–2008:

- 78, 083 invitations were sent out regionally
- 38,693 returned, i.e. 49.6% compliance
- 2,392 positive FOBT (6.2%)
- 2,231 eligible for colonoscopy (93.3%)
- 2,052 colonoscopies (92%)
- 876 (42.7%) adenomatous polyps
- 95 (4.6%) cancers detected

The online version of the original article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00384-009-0690-6>.

N. J. West (✉)
Endoscopy Department, St George’s Hospital,
London, UK
e-mail: nwest@sgul.ac.uk

C. Boustière
Gastrointestinal, Endoscopic Unit, St Joseph Hospital,
Marseilles, France

W. Fischbach
Internal Medicine, Academic Teaching Hospital,
University of Würzburg,
Würzburg, Germany

F. Parente
Gastroenterology, A. Manzoni Hospital,
Lecco, Italy

R. J. Leicester
Endoscopy Department, St George’s Hospital,
Blackshaw Road,
London SW17 0QT, UK

Table 4 Summary of bowel cancer screening in Europe

	UK	Germany	France	Spain	The Netherlands	Italy
Current national screening programme	Yes, since 2006	Yes, since 2002	Yes, since 2003	No	No	Yes, since 2005
Percentage of country	Aim for 100% by 2009	All	Aim for 100% by end 2008	N/A	N/A	Aim for 100% by end 2009
If no programme, when planned?	N/A	N/A	N/A	Currently unknown	Planned after results of trials to investigate optimal screening test	N/A
Screening age range (years)	60–69	Over 55	50–74	N/A	Likely 50 and above	50–69
Screening frequency	2 yearly	10 yearly	2 yearly	N/A	N/A	2 yearly
Screening modality	FOBT-guaiaac	Colonoscopy	FOBT-guaiaac	N/A	N/A	Depends on region: FOBT-immuno (NB Piedmont using FS)
Compliance (%)	52 for FOBT	12 for colonoscopy (data unavailable for FOBT)	54 for FOBT	N/A	N/A	From Lecco province (pilot province), 49.6 for FOBT
Percentage of patients with pathology after colonoscopy, e.g. adenoma, carcinoma	CRC, 11; adenomas, 44	CRC, 0.8; adenomas, 18.9	CRC, 9.6; adenomas, 33	N/A	N/A	CRC, 4.6; adenomas, 42.7
Caecal intubation rate (%)	92	95	96	N/A	N/A	97
Perforation rate (%)	0.5	0.02	0.05	N/A	N/A	0.05
Bleeding complications (%)	Unavailable at time of publication	0.18	Unavailable at time of publication	N/A	N/A	0.7