

Title: The fecal immunochemical test (FIT) has high sensitivity and specificity in screening for colon cancer.

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Abstract:

Newer stool tests (fecal immunochemical test) may be better than the usual stool test (guaiac) for detecting colon cancer. The FIT might be more useful than the current guaiac test for colon cancer screening.

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Colon cancer screening:

What if I don't want a colonoscopy?



Why screen for colon cancer?

CONSIDER THESE FACTS:

- Colorectal cancer is the 3rd most common type of cancer and the 2nd leading cause of cancer death in the United States.
- The evidence is convincing that screening for colorectal cancer with fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy detects early-stage cancer and adenomatous polyps.

What are my options?

PERSONS 50 – 75 YRS OLD:

- Annual screening with high-sensitivity fecal occult blood testing
- Sigmoidoscopy every 5 years, with high-sensitivity fecal occult blood testing every 3 years
- Screening colonoscopy every 10 years

“I know colonoscopy is the gold standard...”

BUT HOW GOOD ARE OTHER TESTS?

- FOBT has a detection rate of about 25-80%, depending on the product used or study cited.
- Recent evidence has shown that newer immunochemical tests may better detect colon cancer than the FOBT, but the detection rate is still only 60-90% that of a colonoscopy.
- Positive FOBT or FIT tests may require referral for colonoscopy.
- Colonoscopy is the only screening method that can actually remove a polyp.