

Colorectal Cancer Screening

Implementation of a public health programme

An Expert Group on Colorectal Cancer Screening Cancer Society of Finland, Finnish Cancer Registry, Mass Screening Registry

Aims of colorectal cancer screening

- The main aim is to reduce mortality from colorectal cancer
- Reduction about 15-20 % is expected based on randomised screening trials
- Means: detecting cancer at an early stage
 - survival of patients
 - quality of life of patients
 - savings in treatment
- Collecting data of missing information (feasibility, compliance, test results)

What is the current situation in Finland?

- A population based screening programme was launched in September 2004
 - testing feasibility in Finland
 - gradual implementation in the target population
 - gradual expansion over regions
 - colonoscopy possible using existing resources evaluation of the programme
- The programme is running for the third year
 - expansion over regions succesful so far
 - colonoscopy resources have been found
 - population attitudes positive and encouraging

Target population

- Age 60-69-years
- Men and women
- Gradual start among 50% of target population
- Randomisation into screening or control arms at individual level
- Eventually, implementation to all 60-69-year olds
- Repeated screening every second year



Randomisation

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Birth year	Age 2006						
1937	69 v						
1938	68 v						
1939	67 v						
1940	66 v						
1941	65 v						
1942	64 v	50 %		Re-Screen		Re-Screen	
1943	63 v		50 %		Re-Screen		Re-Screen
1944	62 v	50 %		Re-Screen		Re-Screen	
1945	61 v		50 %		Re-Screen		Re-Screen
1946	60 v	50 %		Re-Screen		Re-Screen	
1947			50 %		Re-Screen		Re-Screen
1948				50 %		Re-Screen	
1949					50 %		Re-Screen
1950						50 %	
1951							50 %



Implementation

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Birth year	Age 2006					
1943	69 v					
1944	68 v	ReS+50%				
1945	67 v		ReS+50%			
1946	66 v	Re-Screen		ReS+50%		
1947	65 v		Re-Screen		ReS+50%	
1948	64 v	Re-Screen		ReS+50%		100 %
1949	63 v		Re-Screen		ReS+50%	
1950	62 v	Re-Screen		Re-Screen		ReS+50%
1951	61 v		Re-Screen		ReS+50%	
1952	60 v	100 %		100 %		100 %
1953			100 %		100 %	
1954				100 %		100 %
1955					100 %	
1956						100 %



Evaluation

- Randomised design allows unbiased comparison between the screening and control arms
- Cancers and deaths followed through national registries
- Both screened and the control population can be followed through register linkage
- Colonoscopy use: those screened (active data collection); controls (hospital discharge registry)
- First years: performance, compliance, positivity rate, colonoscopies
- After six years randomisation will gradually cease

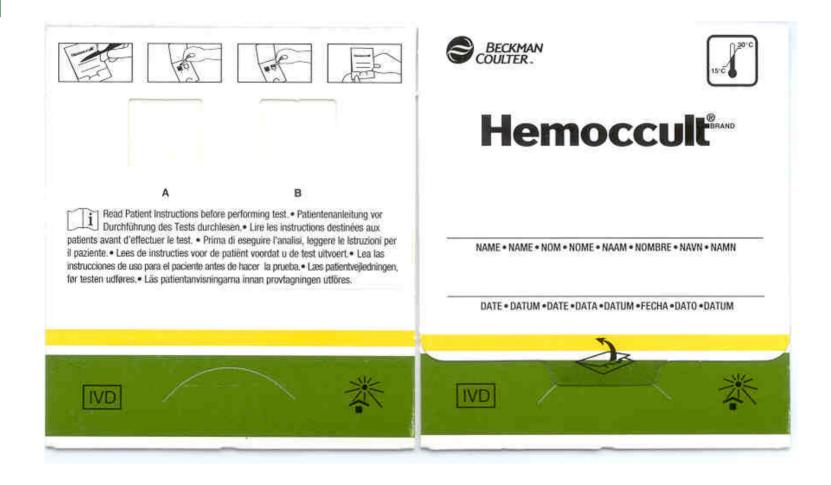


Procedure of screening

- Mail invitation
- Three day specimen collection (faecal cards)
- Guaiac based test, no rehydration
- Any positive test window is regarded as a positive test result
- Those being positive are sent to their local contact person (nurses) for colonoscopy referral
- Further surveillance and treatment according to usual care



FOB-test



mail

Launch in September 2004

- In 22 municipalities (out of 444)
- Only one screening centre for the entire country (5,3 million people)
- Totally 4539 invited in 2004
- Compliance 75,3% (no reminder so far)
- Positivity rate 1,8%
- Renewals 3.9% (missing specimens, too old, wrong side)



Colonoscopies in 2004

- 63 test positive persons in 2004
 - 54 colonoscopies done
 - no finding in 5 people
- No colonoscopy for 9 people because:
 - 4 did not want to, 3 had been colonoscopied recently and 2 were in surveillance
- No sedatives were used, no in-hospital treatments for primary colonoscopy
 - one was admitted to surgery directly after second (immediate) colonoscopy and big polyp removal
- Primary colonoscopy completed in 2 months for most (50/54)



Findings

Colonoscopy	Final histology					
Neoplasia	No further examination	Mild dysplasia	Severe dysplasia	Carcinoma	Unknown	Total
Adenoma, mild						
dysplasia	8	9	-	-	2	19
Adenoma, severe						
dysplasia	1	-	-	2	-	3
Carcinoma			-	3	-	3
TOTAL	9	9	-	5	2	25
Non-neoplastic						
Hyperplastic						
polyps	4					
Diverticulosis	13					
Hemorrhoides	4					
Anal irritation	3					
No findings	5					
No colonoscopy	9					

First results (September 2004–February 2006)

	Men	Prop.	Women	Prop.	Together	Prop.
Invited	15146		15610		30756	
Negative	9290	61,3 %	11836	75,8 %	21126	68,7 %
Positive	263	1,7 %	156	1,0 %	419	1,4 %
New spec	257	1,7 %	282	1,8 %	539	1,8 %
Complied	9810	64,8 %	12274	78,6 %	22084	71,8 %



Test results

- Overall compliance good, 72%, in males 65% and in women 79%
- Positive tests among those who were screened: 1.9% total; males 2.7%, females 1.3%
- Compliance to colonoscopy has been high, 90%
 4% decline, 6% have been in surveillance
 - in colonoscopy, 10% cancers, 30% adenomas (data collected from 268 colonoscopies so far)
- New test kits to 2.3%, males 2.6% and females 2.4% of those screened

How do we proceed in Finland

- By January 2006 up to 160 municipalities, still recruiting more
- Total number of invitations around 35 000 in 2006
- First preliminary "evaluation" in 2007
 - first participants with re-invitation to screening
- Data collection of primary screening online, colonoscopy results have to be asked for from hospitals and introduces some delay in reporting
- Publication draft to be sent for review in fall