

Colorectal cancer screening in Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil: initial results from a pilot implementation program.

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BACKGROUND: Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third leading incident cancer in men and the second in women, in Brazil. CRC screening has been demonstrated to be effective in reducing CRC incidence and mortality. So far, there are no national organized CRC screening program in Brazil. A pilot CRC screening program was implemented in the department of prevention of Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil. **HYPOTHESIS:** To describe the uptake and early outcomes of the first round of the FIT-based CRC screening program implemented at the Barretos Cancer Hospital in June 2015. **METHODS:** The program invited average-risk subjects aged 50-65 attended at the Prevention Unity and free fecal immunochemical test (FIT) kit (Hemosure ®) was provided. All people with positive test were referred for follow-up colonoscopy at the Department of Endoscopy at the Prevention Unit. Outcomes and quality indicators of the CRC screening program were evaluated. **RESULTS:** Between June and December 2015, 1477 eligible individuals were invited to attend for screening and 1476 (99.9%) were tested. The FIT inadequate rate was 1.5% (18 of 1241 individuals returning test in the first round of the program) and the positivity rate was 4.8% (57/1223). Of the 57 with positive (abnormal) test, 57 (100%) were referred for follow up colonoscopy. The follow up colonoscopy compliance rate was 100%. Overall, the lesion detection rate was 20.2%, the adenoma detection rate was 16 per 1,000 people tested, being early adenoma 19.9 per 1,000 people tested and advanced adenoma 5.1 per 1,000 people tested. We detected cancers in 5 people (4.2 per 1,000 people tested). In conclusion, the performance and quality indicators of the initial six months CRC screening program were in line with the international societies recommendations and guidelines.