A Community Based Approach to Colon Cancer Screening: A Great FIT

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**BACKGROUND**

- With the incidence of colorectal cancer rates rising, there is a need for socially conscious, equitable, and population-based approaches to cancer screening.
- In the current system, patients need prior establishment with a PCP to obtain CRC screening.
- This is a major barrier to access, as many marginalized patients do not have a PCP or cannot follow up regularly.
- Urban minority populations continue to have the lowest screening rates among average risk Americans.

**AIMS**

- Patient centered care requires multifactorial evaluation of barriers to access care from the patient's individual unique perspective.
- By offering alternatives to colonoscopy, like point-of-care fecal immunochemical testing (FIT) directly to the community, we can expand patient-centered care and increase rates of minority patients screened for CRC.

**METHODS**

- At a community hosted event, interested participants were screened and stratified into average and high risk candidates via a 7-question survey.
- Patients instructed to complete testing within a week of receiving the test.
- Patients who did not call were contacted for follow-up via phone call and text message.
- Average risk candidates were provided with a FIT test, instructions for use, and educational materials on CRC.
- Patients asked to call phone number given with test to report result.
- Those with positive tests were referred to GI for expedited follow up.

**RESULTS**

- Of the 73 eligible patients given FIT tests, 73 completed testing, including follow up communication.
- Of the 73 completed tests, 8 were positive.
- Positive patients were referred to gastroenterology for further evaluation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Eligible Patients</th>
<th>93</th>
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<td>Percent of patients who completed testing (%)</td>
<td>78 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of tests with a positive result</td>
<td>11 %</td>
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**CONCLUSION**

- Colonoscopy remains the most well-known of CRC screen modalities, however some barriers to access make it difficult to obtain for the most vulnerable populations.
- Implementing low cost, point of care CRC screening via FIT testing directly into the community increases interest and access to CRC screening for patients who may have not been plugged into the healthcare system yet.
- By increasing personalization and accessibility of cancer screenings, increased rates of marginalized patients can be screened, and overall healthcare equity can be increased.
- Collaboration with community hosted events may be pivotal in increasing access to point of care health screenings for minority groups.