

# Updates in Colon Cancer Screening Guidelines and Novel tests

Aasma Shaukat MD MPH FACG

Director GI Outcomes Research

Robert M. and Mary H. Glickman Professor of Medicine

Professor of Population Health

NYU Grossman School of Medicine



# Disclosures

- Consultant for Freenome, Motus GI, Iterative Health, UniversalDx
- Member of the USMSTF, ACG BOT

# Objectives

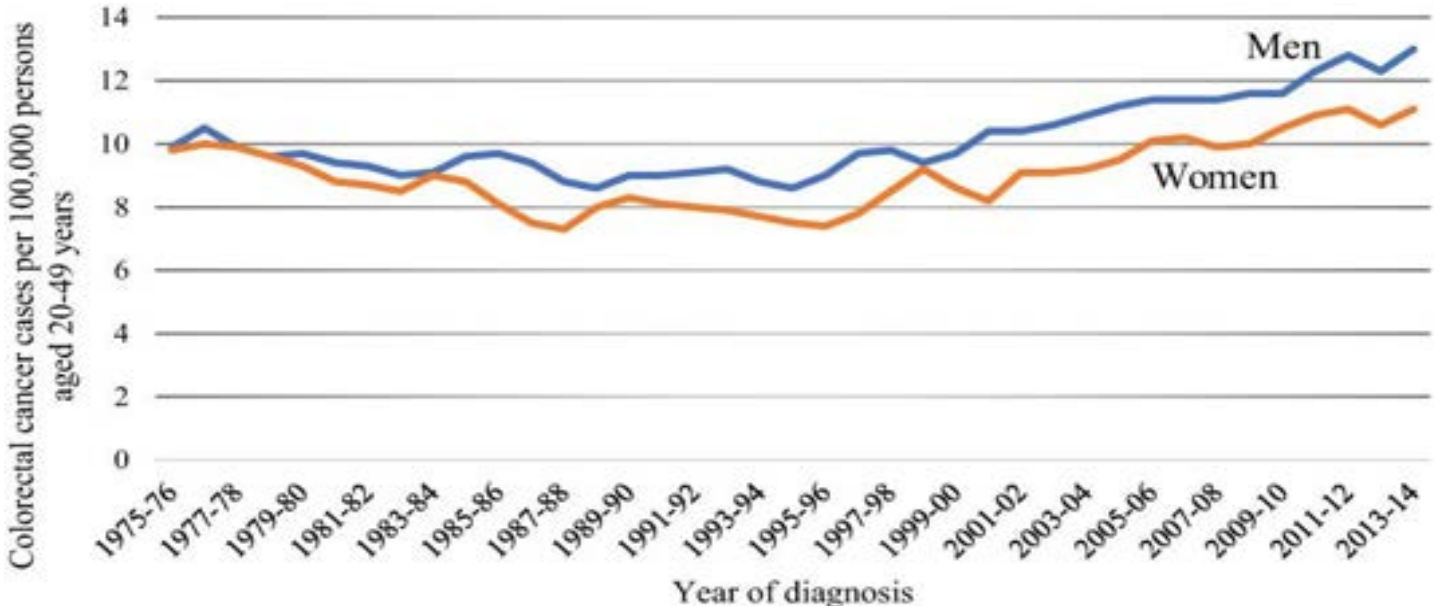
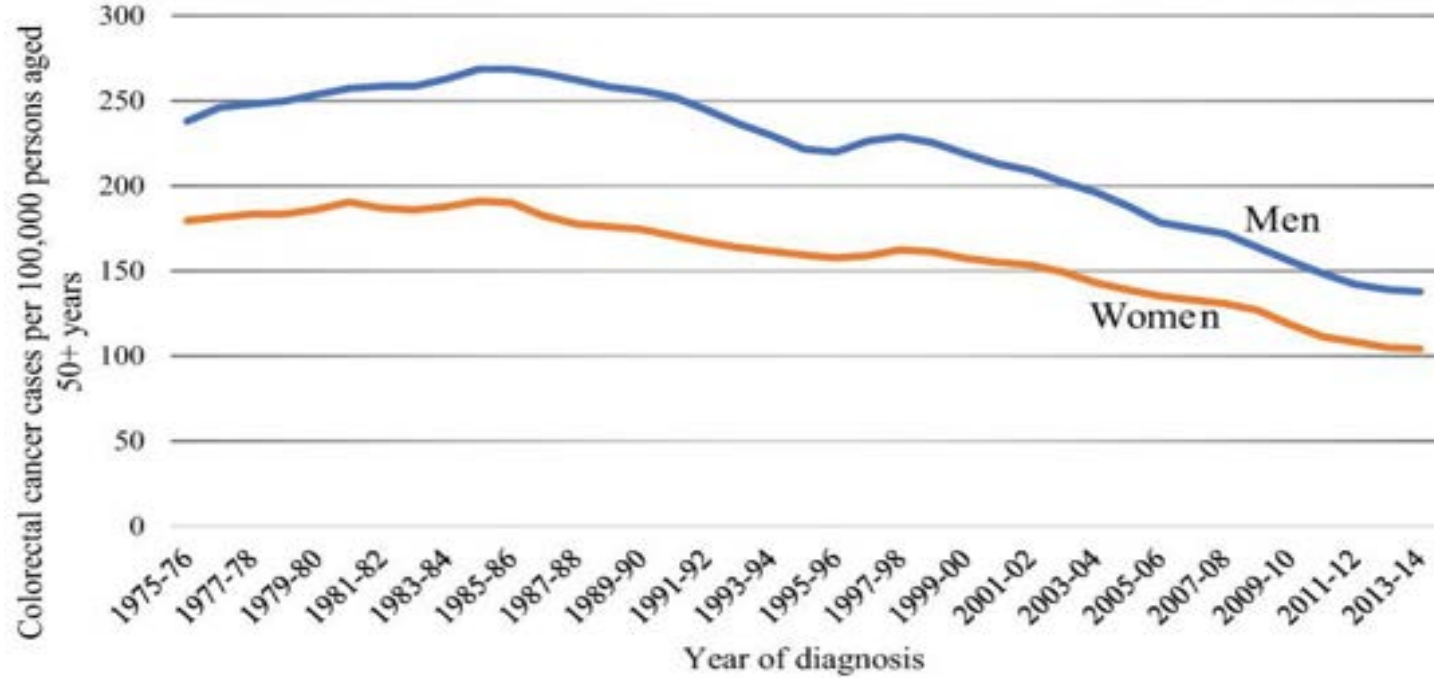
- Review Colorectal cancer (CRC) screening in patients at average risk and family Hx
- Current Screening needs
- Future options for CRC screening
- Take home points

# Case 1

45-year-old healthy male asks about Colon cancer screening and his options. Reports no family hx of CRC or advanced polyps

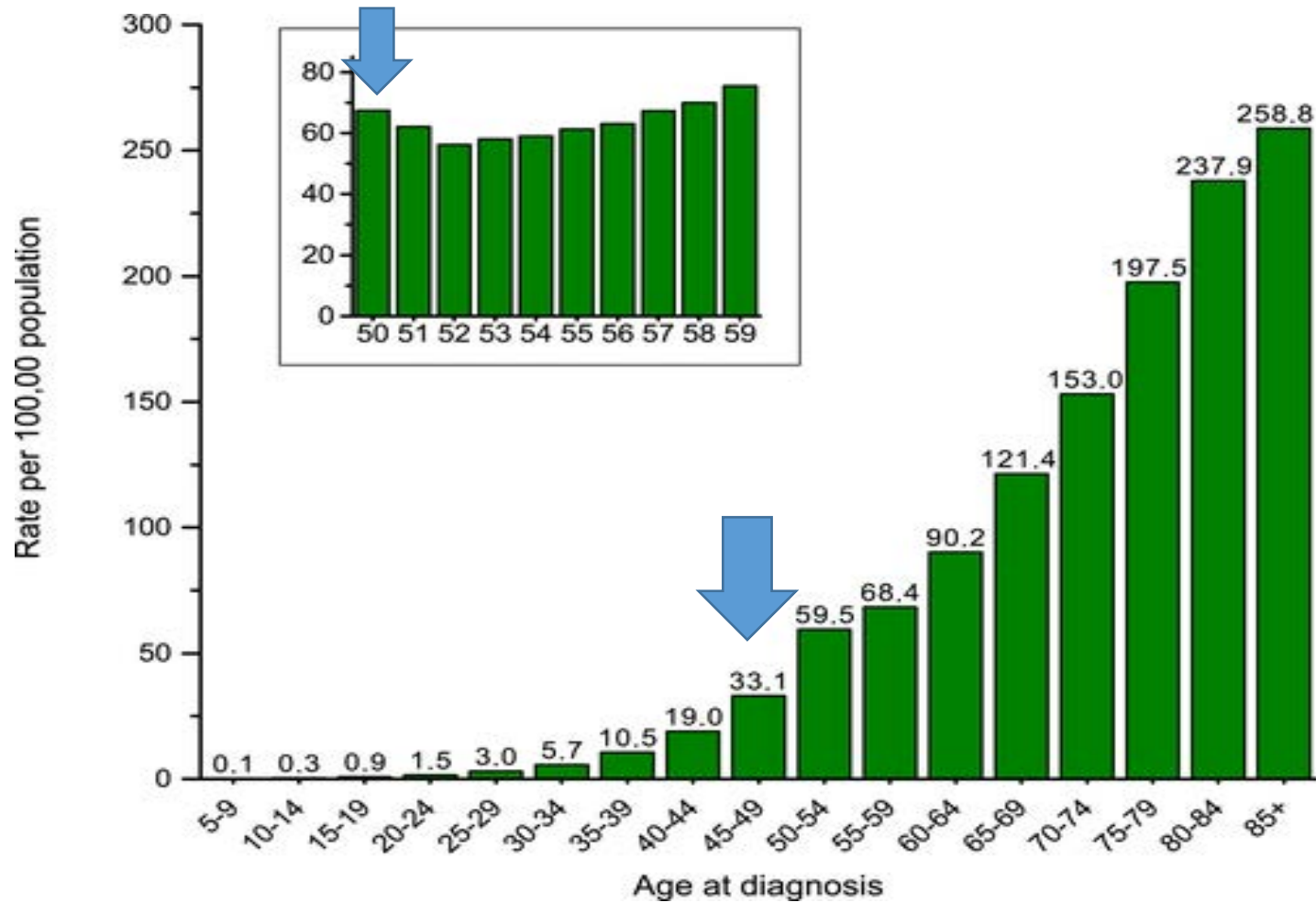
- When would you recommend colorectal cancer screening?
  - A. Now
  - B. Age 50
- What modality would you recommend?
  - A. Colonoscopy
  - B. Stool-based test
  - C. Patient choice
- If screening test is normal, when should he have his next screening?
  - A. 5 years
  - B. 10 years
  - C. Age 50

# CRC Incidence



Siegel RL et al. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2017;109(8):27-32

# CRC Incidence over time in the US



2011-2016

# ACG Clinical Guidelines: Colorectal Cancer Screening 2021

Aasma Shaukat, MD, MPH, FACP<sup>1,2</sup>, Charles J. Kahi, MD, MSc, FACP<sup>3-7</sup>, Carol A. Burke, MD, FACP<sup>4</sup>, Linda Rabeneck, MD, MPH, MACG<sup>5</sup>, Bryan G. Sauer, MD, MSc, FACP (GRADE Methodologist)<sup>6</sup> and Douglas K. Rex, MD, MACG<sup>3</sup>

---

- 1 We recommend colorectal cancer (CRC) screening in average-risk individuals between ages 50 and 75 yr to reduce incidence of advanced adenoma, CRC, and mortality from CRC
- 2 We suggest CRC screening in average-risk individuals between ages 45 and 49 yr to reduce incidence of advanced adenoma, CRC, and mortality from CRC
- 3 We suggest that a decision to continue screening beyond age 75 yr be individualized
- 4 We recommend colonoscopy and fecal immunochemical testing (FIT) as the primary screening modalities for CRC screening



# USPSTF Recommendations 2021

Recommendation	GRADE	
Screen average risk men and women 50-75	A	High certainty of substantial net benefit
Screen average risk men and women starting at age 45	B	Moderate certainty of moderate net benefit
Individualize decision to screen 76-85	C	Moderate certainty of small net benefit

## Recommended screening strategies include

- High-sensitivity guaiac fecal occult blood test (HSgFOBT) or fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every year
  - Stool DNA-FIT every 1 to 3 years
  - Computed tomography colonography every 5 years
  - Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years
  - Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 10 years + annual FIT
  - Colonoscopy screening every 10 years
- Grade A or B recs are covered by Medicare
  - Other payors follow Medicare



# When Should Screening Start for CRC?

## ACG

- Recommended in all adults 50 to 75 years of age
- Suggest in all average risk adults 45 to 49 years of age
- Recommend decision to screen after 75 be individualized

## USPSTF

- Recommended in all adults 50 to 75 years of age
- Recommended in adults 45 to 49 years of age
- Recommended that clinicians selectively offer screening in adults 76-85 years of age

## MSTF

- Suggested to all average-risk adults ages 45 to 49
- For adults ages 76 to 85, the decision to start or continue screening should be individualized and based on prior screening history, life expectancy, CRC risk, and personal preference
- Screening is not recommended after age 85

# ACP Guidance 2023

- Start screening at age 50 years
- Consider not screening asymptomatic ages of 45 to 49
- Discuss the uncertainty around benefit in the average-risk population
- Select among a fecal immunochemical test every 2 years, colonoscopy every 10 years plus a fecal occult blood test every 2 years, or sigmoidoscopy every 10 years plus a fecal occult blood test every 2 years
- Clinicians should not use stool DNA, CTC, capsule endoscopy, urine, or serum screening tests for colorectal cancer



**Joint Society Statement: ACG and ASGE Support Colorectal Cancer Screening Starting at Age 45**

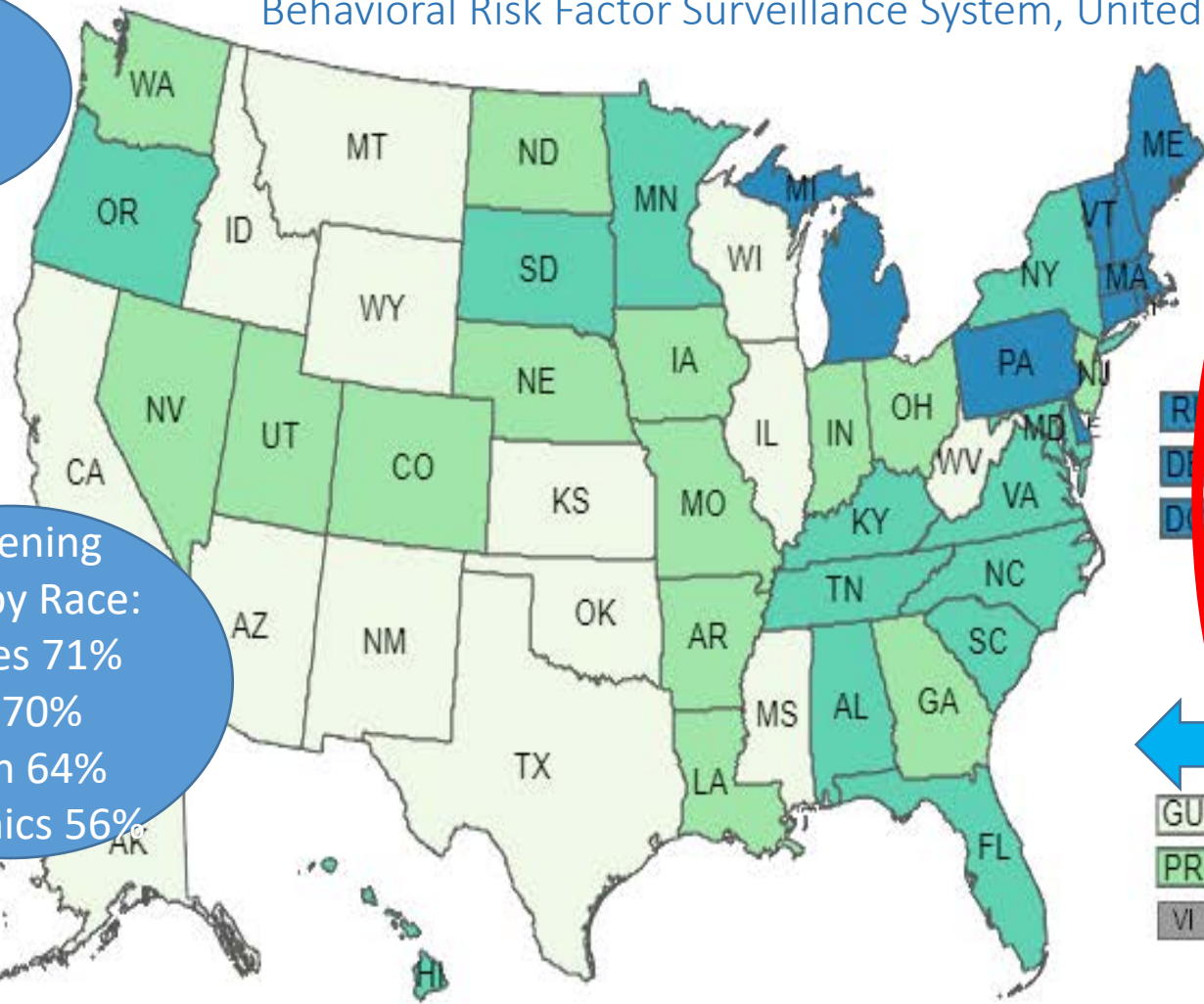
*Standing with CRC Patient Advocates and GI Community  
in Expressing Frustration with ACP Guidance*

# 2020: Percentage of Adults 50–75 Years fully meeting USPSTF recommendation for CRC Screening, by State

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, United States, 2020

Overall screening rates are 68%

Screening rates by Race:  
Whites 71%  
AA 70%  
Asian 64%  
Hispanics 56%



Health Insurance:  
Yes 71%  
No 40%

Regular HCP:  
Yes 73%  
No 36%



**21 million**  
adults 45-49  
yrs

**Crude Prevalence (%)**

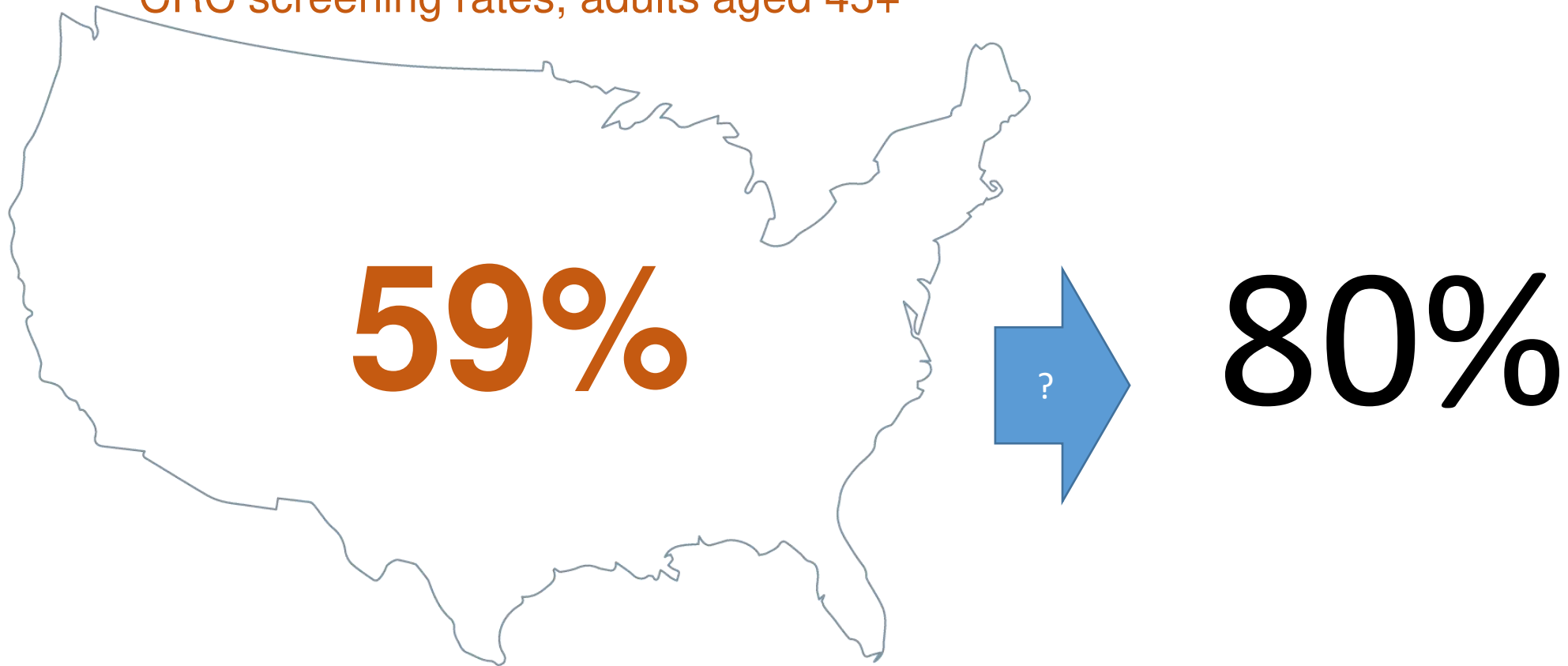
- 53.9 - 70.9
- 71.0 - 74.3
- 74.4 - 77.1
- 77.2 - 81.2
- Data unavailable

**Quantile**

Legend Settings

Despite existing screening options, many eligible patients are not getting screened for CRC

CRC screening rates, adults aged 45+



## Who and how?

**Newly Eligible + Overdue + never screened**

**Endoscopic capacity + Access**

**Ensuring Health Equity**

What got us here may not be enough to get us there

80% in every Community

# The elephant in the Room



NORDICC

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Effect of Colonoscopy Screening on Risks of Colorectal Cancer and Related Death

M. Bretthauer, M. Løberg, P. Wieszczyn, M. Kalager, L. Emilsson, K. Garborg, M. Rupinski, E. Dekker, M. Spaander, M. Bugajski, Ø. Holme, A.G. Zauber, N.D. Pilonis, A. Mroz, E.J. Kuipers, J. Shi, M.A. Hernán, H.-O. Adami, J. Regula, G. Hoff, and M.F. Kaminski, for the NordICC Study Group\*

- Adherence to colonoscopy: 42%
- CRC incidence risk reduction 18%
- NS difference in CRC mortality and all cause mortality

# Putting it in context: Adherence is Key

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Effect of Colonoscopy Screening on Risks of Colorectal Cancer and Related Death

M. Bretthauer, M. Løberg, P. Wieszczy, M. Kalager, L. Emilsson, K. Garborg, M. Rupinski, E. Dekker, M. Spaander, M. Bugajski, Ø. Holme, A.G. Zauber, N.D. Pilonis, A. Mroz, E.J. Kuipers, J. Shi, M.A. Hernán, H.-O. Adami, J. Regula, G. Hoff, and M.F. Kaminski, for the NordICC Study Group\*

- Emphasizes importance of adherence
- Quality of Colonoscopy
- Underpowered for CRC Mortality difference
- Put in context with other data
- **Message:** Don't let patients be discouraged or dissuaded

# ACG Clinical Guidelines: Colorectal Cancer Screening 2021

Aasma Shaukat, MD, MPH, FACG<sup>1,2</sup>, Charles J. Kahi, MD, MSc, FACG<sup>3-7</sup>, Carol A. Burke, MD, FACG<sup>4</sup>, Linda Rabeneck, MD, MPH, MACG<sup>5</sup>, Bryan G. Sauer, MD, MSc, FACG (GRADE Methodologist)<sup>6</sup> and Douglas K. Rex, MD, MACG<sup>3</sup>

19. We recommend organized screening programs to improve adherence to CRC screening compared with opportunistic screening.

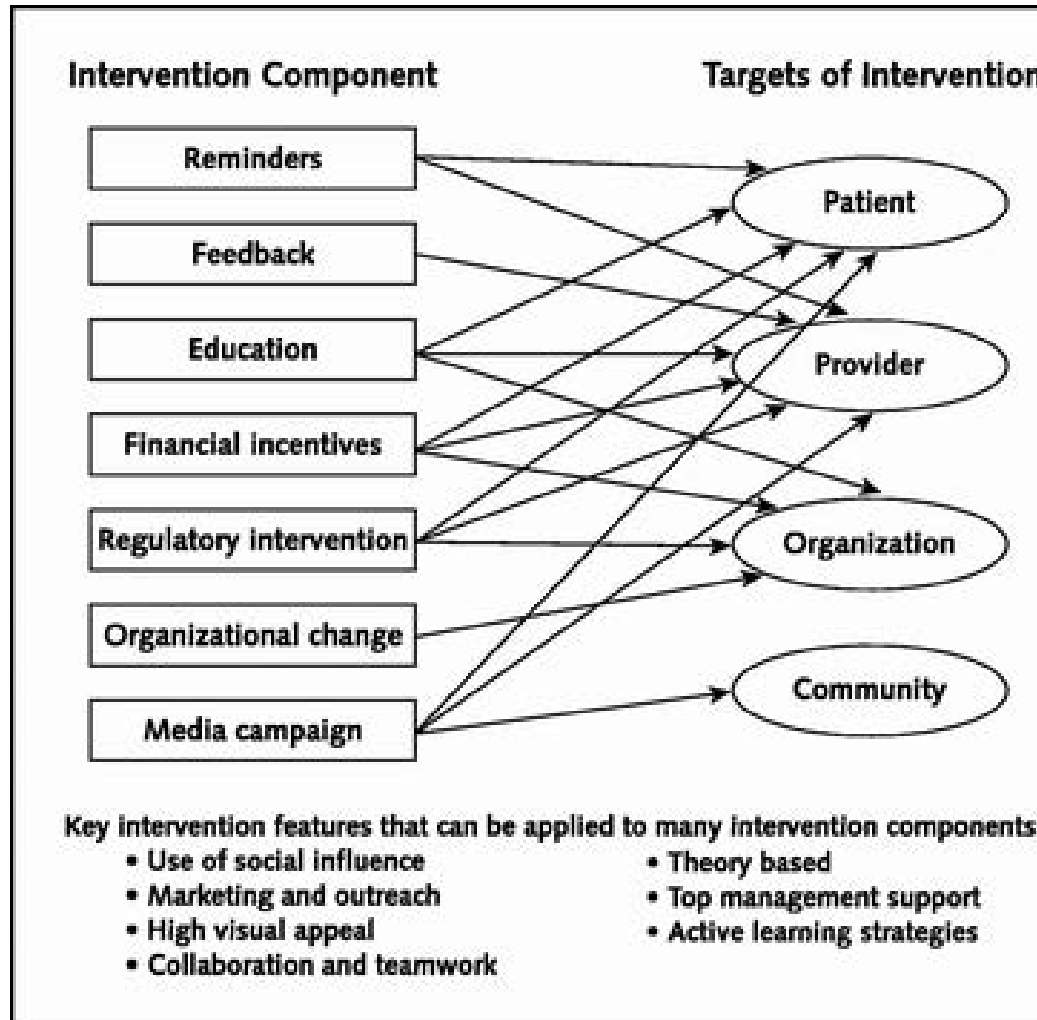
Strong recommendation; low-quality evidence

20. We suggest the following strategies to improve adherence to screening: patient navigation, patient reminders, clinician interventions, provider recommendations, and clinical decision support tools.

Conditional recommendation; very low-quality evidence



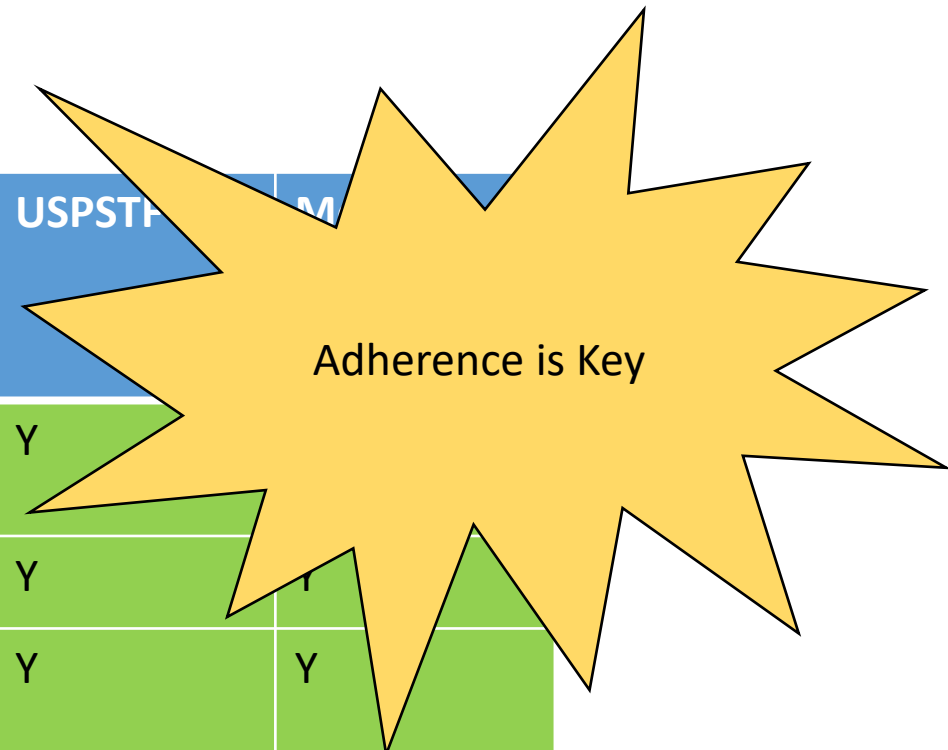
# Improving Adherence



Stone EG, et al. Interventions that increase use of adult immunization and cancer screening services: A meta-analysis. Ann Intern Med. 2002;136:641-651

# CRC Screening Options

Modality	Sensitivity CRC	Sensitivity AA	Specificity	Invasive	USPSTF	M
Colonoscopy	96%	95%	90%	Y	Y	Y
FIT	74%	24%	96%	N	Y	Y
mtsDNA stool	92%	42%	87%	N	Y	Y
Septin-9	48%	-	91%	N	N	Y
Liquid Biopsy	-	-	-	N	TBD	TBD



# Organized Screening Program improves Adherence

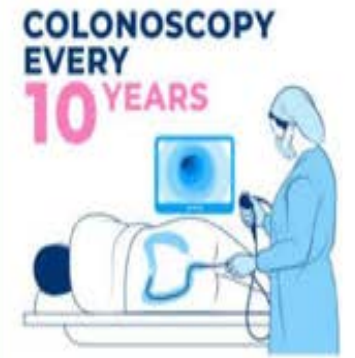
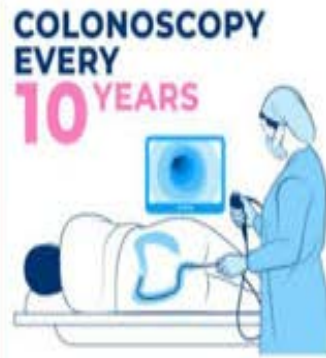
- Kaiser Permanente Northern California
- Screening before and after proactive outreach program (FIT and colonoscopy)
- 2000 to 2015

	Before	After	Absolute change
Adherence	38%	82%	+44%
CRC incidence	95 per 100,000	71 per 100,000	-24%
CRC Mortality	30 per 100,000	14 per 100,000	-52%

# Preferred CRC Screening Tests Among 1,000 Unscreened Americans

## US MSTF Five Recommended Tests

## US MSTF Tier 1 Tests



40-49 yo

34.6%

28.2%

13.7%

12.2%

11.3%

68.9%

31.1%

≥50 yo

37.3%

22.9%

13.6%

18.7%

7.6%

77.4%

22.6%

Makaroff KE et al. Patient Preferences for Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests in Light of Lowering the Screening Age to 45 Years, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* (2022). DOI: [10.1016/j.cgh.2022.07.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cgh.2022.07.012)

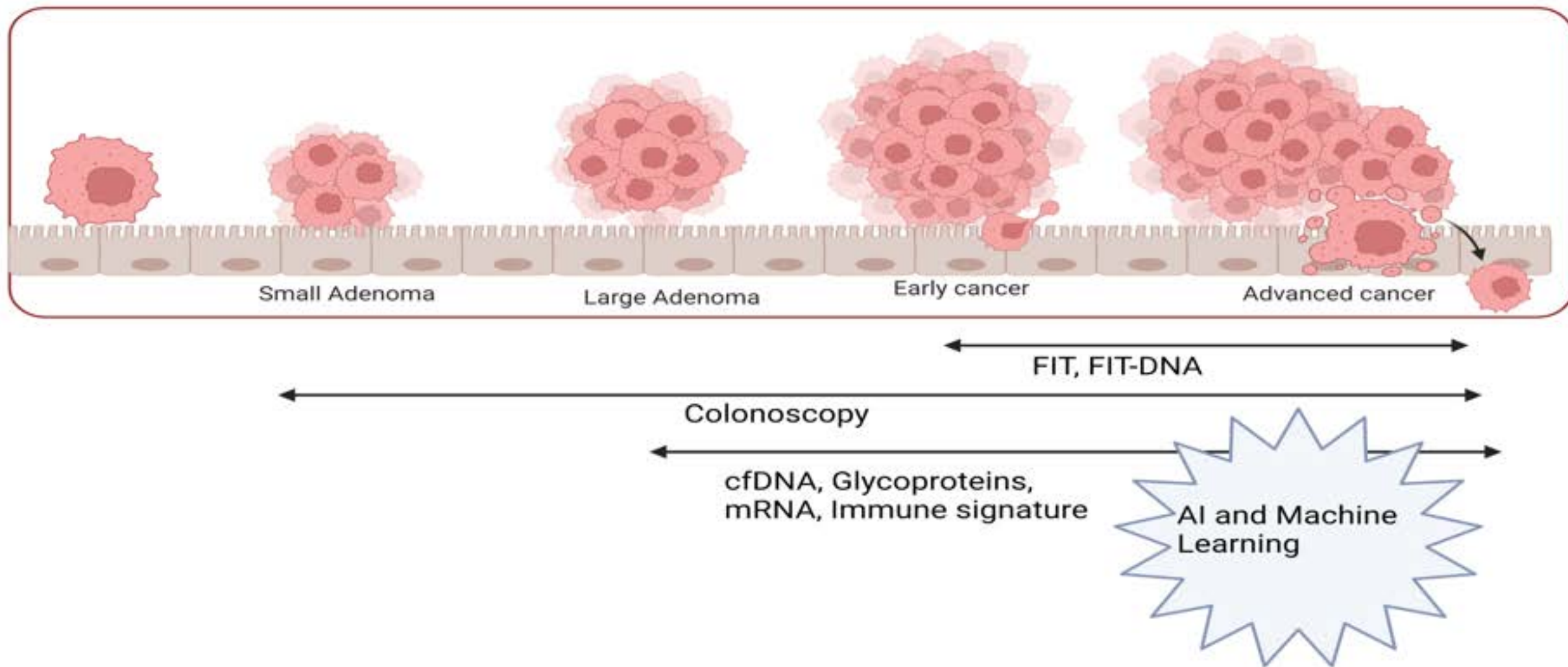
# Case 1

45-year-old healthy male asks about Colon cancer screening and his options. Reports no family hx of CRC or advanced polyps



- When would you recommend colorectal cancer screening?
  - A. Now
  - B. Age 50
- What modality would you recommend?
  - A. Colonoscopy
  - B. Stool-based test
  - C. Patient choice
- If screening test is normal, when should he have his next screening?
  - A. 5 years
  - B. 10 years
  - C. Age 50



# Blood Based CRC screening tests



# Stool and Blood-based CRC Screening tests

<u>CRC detection Test</u>	<u>Details of Technology</u>	<u>Special Considerations</u>	<u>Expected Completion</u>
<b>Stool based</b>			Sensitivity CRC 95% Specificity CRC 92% Sensitivity AA 57% 
<b>Exact</b>	Multi-target stool DNA+FIT Version 2.0	Target recruitment 29,000	March 2023
<b>Geneoscopy</b>	Mts-RNA test	Target Recruitment 10,000	◆ 2022 
<b>Blood-Based</b>			
<b>Freenome</b>	Cell free DNA plus artificial intelligence for CRC and AN (NCT04369053)	Aims to recruit 25,000 average risk individuals between 45-85	Sensitivity CRC 94% Specificity CRC 88% Sensitivity AA 46%
<b>Guardant</b>	ctDNA LUNAR test to detect cell free tumor DNA in blood (NCT04136002)	Aims to recruit 10,000 average risk individuals between 45-84 years	◆ 2022





# Setting the Bar: CMS National Coverage Decision

The screenshot shows the CMS.gov Medicare Coverage Database (MCD) interface. The main title is "Screening for Colorectal Cancer - Blood-Based Biomarker Tests" with ID CAG-00454N. The page includes a "Decision Summary" section which states: "The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has determined that the evidence is sufficient to cover a blood-based biomarker test as an appropriate colorectal cancer screening test once every 3 years for Medicare beneficiaries when performed in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA)-certified laboratory, when ordered by a treating physician and when all of the following requirements are met:"

Sensitivity for CRC	74%
Specificity for CRC	90%
FDA approval	

Guardant  
N=20,000  
CRC Sensitivity:  
83%; CRC  
Specificity 90%;  
AA sensitivity: 13%

# Practical questions

- How ordered? → information required
- How completed? → Navigation or not
- How collected? → clinic, commercial lab, mobile phlebotomy, home
- How Processed? → Commercial lab, central lab, regional labs
- Require interpretation? → Clinician or staff?

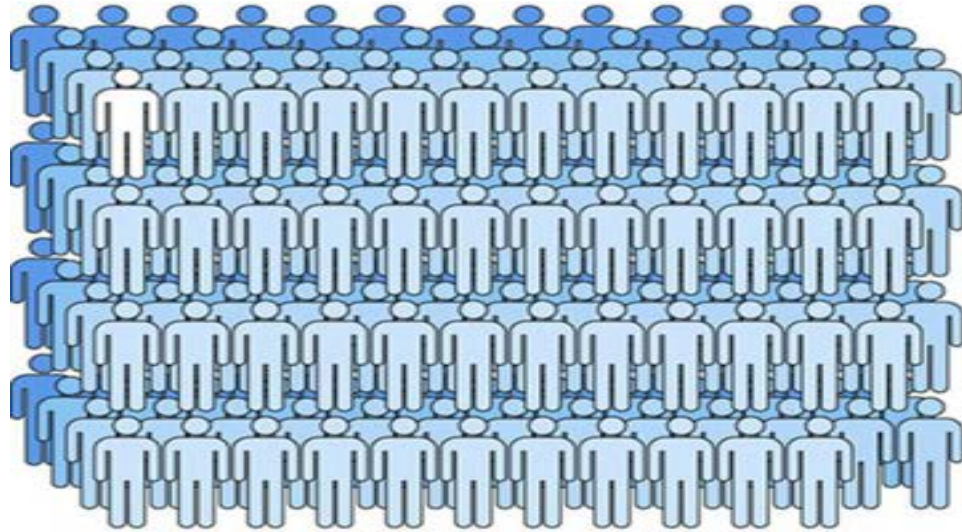
# Bigger questions

- Repeat interval? → Data, company, experts, modelling
- Long term outcome → ? Association with CRC incidence and mortality
- Follow up of false positives?
- Comparative effectiveness?
- Availability
- Cost
- Adherence to the two steps?

# Adherence to Blood based tests

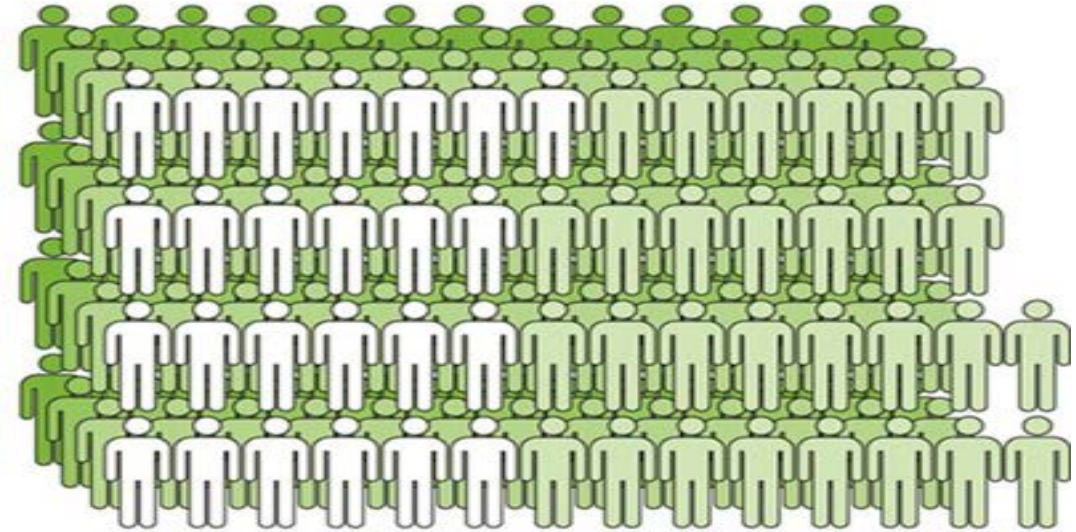
413 randomized adults

**Blood Test Arm**



**99.5%** (CI95: 97.3%-100%)  
completed test

**FIT Arm**

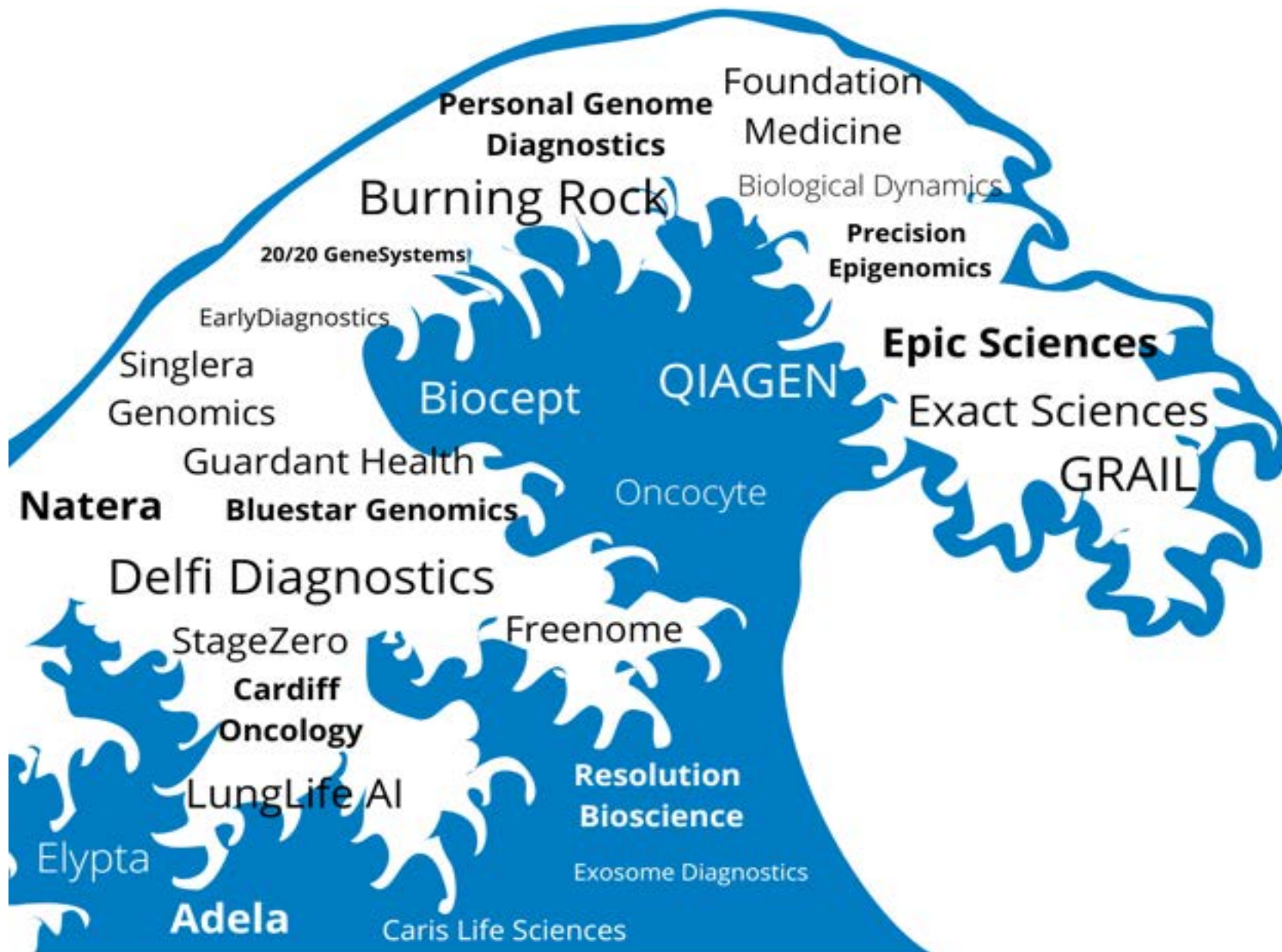


**88.1%** (CI95: 83.0%-91.8%)  
completed test

= a difference of **11.4%** (CI95: 6.9%-15.9%,  $p < .001$ )

Liles EG et al. Uptake of a colorectal cancer screening blood test is higher than of a fecal test offered in clinic: A randomized trial. 2017 Cancer Treatment and Research Communications;10: 27-31

# Multi Cancer Tests: Pathway to Population Screening



I think I'd like to have an MCED test, Doc, but which one?

**MEDICAL OFFICE**



# Natural History of the Targeted Cancers

- Knowledge of natural history is best for cancers we are already screening
  - Breast, lung, prostate, colon
- Limited for others that are a target of MCEs:
  - Pancreatic, liver
- Without knowledge of the natural history, hard to predict degree of stage shift



# The ability to confirm a cancer signal

- Anxiety associated with a positive test impairs quality of life
- Single cancer screening tests: image guided biopsies or colonoscopy
- Imaging tests can be imperfect
- MCED-may lead to whole body scanning-risk for incidentalomas
- What to do about false positives?
- Will need guidance on algorithms to approach +MCED tests
- Burden of confirming MCED test results will be the costliest aspect of population screening

Published Nov 4, 2021

## San Francisco Rapper & Cannabis Entrepreneur, Berner, 40, Shares That His Cancer Surgery 'Went Well,' But 'We Still Have a Battle to Fight'

Berner revealed last month that doctors discovered his cancer after a series of blood tests.



Sydney Schaefer



Details



Do Blood Tests to Detect Cancer Actually Work?

# These tests are in market now, as LDTs

- Galleri being sold for \$949 per test, but not covered by insurance
- Guardant Shield (CRC specific test) is also available to order now (\$895)
- Release of these tests into the market will get ahead of the trials

# Summary

- Average risk individuals: Start screening at 45
- Improve screening efforts with emphasis on adherence
- Organized Programs, patient navigation are effective strategies
- Promising blood-based markers for CRC under development, need thorough evaluation

Thank you!



[Aasma.shaukat@nyulangone.org](mailto:Aasma.shaukat@nyulangone.org)

@aasmashaukatmd