Update on CRC screening in Germany

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## History of CRC screening in Germany

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Digital rectal examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>gFOBT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Screening colonoscopy (additional to gFOBT) including quality criteria for colonoscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>gFOBT replaced by quantitative FIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Invitation system</td>
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Screening colonoscopy: Attendance

Claims data analysis:* Proportion of persons in 2015 who underwent a screening colonoscopy in the past 10 years by age (here: men)

* Schwarz et al., paper in preparation.
Screening colonoscopy: Attendance

Claims data analysis: Proportion of persons in 2015 who underwent a screening col. or a diagnostic col.* in the past 10 years by age (here: men)

* If there was more than one type of col. (screening and diagnostic) in the past 10 years, allocation was done based on the first col.
History of CRC screening in Germany

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FIT screening in Germany

- In 2018: **2.8 million FITs** were analyzed
  (formerly with gFOBT: 4.7 million per year)

- **Different FIT brands**, no fixed cutoff level
  (requirement: 25% sensitivity for advanced neoplasia, >90% specificity)

~30% of test kits are „lost“ here

Test kits for free

Laboratory

Paid for analysis
## FIT screening in Germany

Data from 2018: 12 different FIT brands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Tests, n</th>
<th>Cutoff level</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
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<td>Mast Group</td>
<td>1,347,061</td>
<td>10 µg/g</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
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<td>613,311</td>
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* There are 6 further FIT brands with <10,000 tests in 2018 with positivity rates ranging between 2% - 21%
## FIT screening in Germany

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Opportunistic screening
Since July 2019:
Men and women at ages 50, 55, 60 and 65 receive a letter from their health insurance along with a booklet (~20 pages) containing general information on CRC and CRC screening (including pros and cons).
Discussion / next steps?

CRC incidence is decreasing in Germany, so all fine?

Brenner et al. 2016
Avoiding over-/underuse of repeat colonoscopy

Discussion / next steps?

- Claims data analysis:*
  - Polypectomy at first col.
  - No polypectomy af first col.

* Schwarz et al., submitted
Discussion / next steps?

- Avoiding over- /underuse of repeat colonoscopy
- Reducing heterogeneity in FIT positivity rates / cutoffs
- Simpler logistics for FIT testing
- Monitoring utilization of col. after a positive FIT
- Etc.
Thank you
for your attention!