The impact of COVID-19 on the FIT-based screening program in the Netherlands

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Disruption caused a decrease in detected lesions

Participation with FIT remained high during COVID-19

Time between positive FIT and colonoscopy was not affected
+/- 2 million invitations per year; 1.5 million participants

60-70,000 Colonoscopies per year; 6% CRC, 30% AA

47 μg Hb/g feces; positivity rate 4.3%

RIVM Monitor 2019: https://www.rivm.nl/en/media/169811
Retrospective observational study with aggregated data from Dutch CRC screening programme (January 1, 2018 – November 30, 2020).

Outcomes:
- Detection of AN
- FIT invitations
- Intervals between two FIT invitations
- Participation with FIT and pre-colonoscopy intake
- Time to colonoscopy
Cumulative Advanced Neoplasia diagnoses

Number

Month

Year 2018, 2019, 2020
Time between FIT invitations: >26 months for 58% of invitees since June.
Median time: +/- 27 months
Participation to FIT per year

- Participation rate

- Month

- Year: 2018, 2019, 2020
Participation to pre-colonoscopy intake

Participation rate

Year: 2018, 2019, 2020

Month: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov
Disruption caused a decrease in detected lesions

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Time between positive FIT and colonoscopy was not affected
Acknowledgments

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