WEO recommendation statement for dealing with future healthcare crises: a Delphi panel

Iris Lansdorp-Vogelaar, on behalf of COVID-19 working group
Impact of COVID-19 on cancer

Dinmohamed, Lancet Oncology 2020
Impact of COVID-19 on CRC screening

- First wave:* 
  - 23 out of 28 programs suspended their screening 
  - Many programs also suffered from lower capacity and/or participation 

- Subsequent waves: 
  - No suspension of programs 
  - Smaller impact on capacity and/or participation?

* Halloran, informal survey
Lessons to be learnt?

- Differences between first and consecutive waves imply important lessons have been learnt
- Strategies to restart and clear backlog differed between countries

Important lessons to prepare for future healthcare crises in CRC screening
Objective

- To develop WEO-endorsed recommendation statements of best practices for dealing with future healthcare crises in CRC screening
Methods

- Literature review for:
  - Impact COVID-19 on CRC screening
  - Policies for dealing with COVID-19 in CRC screening
  - Strategies to mitigate impact of COVID-19 on CRC screening
- Draft ~20 recommendation statements based on literature review and expert assessment
Potential statement topics

- Governance
- Program suspension
- Restart strategies
- Catch-up of backlog
- Prioritization of high-risk individuals
Example statement

- Form network of cancer screening organizers to exchange experiences and share good practices
Example statement

- Catch-up missed screens due to CRC screening disruptions

**Additional CRC cases, 2020-2050**

**Additional CRC-related deaths, 2020-2050**

- 6 months disruption
- 6 months disruption with 50% reduced participation for 6 months
- 6 months disruption with immediate catch-up

De Jonge, Lancet Gastro 2020
Example statement

- If limited capacity, best strategy to extend screening interval

![Bar chart showing life years lost (2020-2050)]

- Increasing cut-off to 60 μg Hb/g faeces
- Skipping 63- and 65-year-olds
- Extending screening interval to 30 months
Delphi panel

- Draft recommendations to panel of experts from WEO CRC Screening Steering Committee
- Discuss and vote on statements in first Delphi panel
- Update statements without consensus according to discussion
- Discuss and vote on statements during second Delphi panel
- Report on consensus and majority statements in position paper
Status

- Co-chairs to start up literature review and drafting of recommendation statements

- Members interested in participating in literature review, drafting of recommendation statements or taking place in Delphi panel can apply with co-chairs
CRC incidence in the Netherlands

https://iknl.nl/covid-19/covid-19-en-kanker-van-de-spijsverteringsorganen
Thank you!

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