

Why do some colorectal cancer screening participants choose not to undergo colonoscopy following a positive test result?

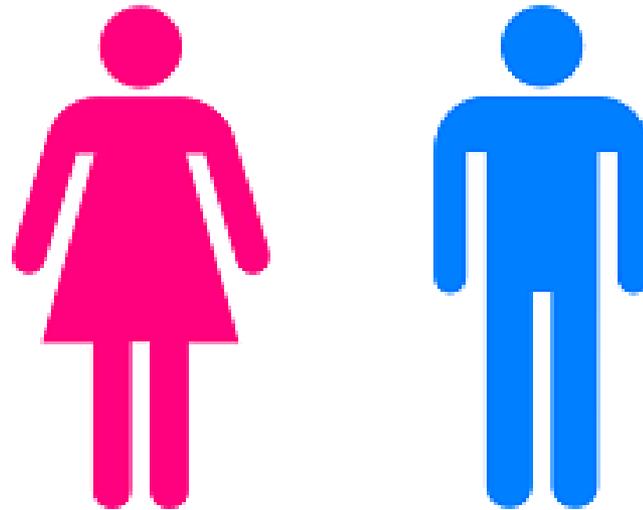
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Background

- Implementation in Denmark in 2014
- Every man and woman aged 50-74 years
- iFOBT



Method:

- Qualitative study
- Recruitment by invitation-letters to non-participants from Region Zealand.
- All interviews were recorded
- 6 semistructured interviews
- More than 30 different reasons, 7 main categories



Discomfort with the colonoscopy and the cleansing:

"He put the hoses all the way up here (points), I could feel it. He was brutal you know. (...) I was just lying there screaming. It hurt like hell."

Not having the energy / being tired of coping with illness.

"And then when I got that... (result), I thought no, no. I don't have the energy to cope with any more illness. So this will just go the way it goes."

Afraid of complications

"The folder said you had to call 112 (911), if you developed a fever, and so on... And then I just thought; 'no, no, no!'"

"Air gets pumped into the stomach, and stuff like that, and it can kill you. That's what I'm afraid of."



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Comorbidity

“And I’m also schizophrenic in my thoughts and that’s hard for me. And I don’t think I can do it... If they start operating me. I’ll kick the bucket.”

“Well, if my diabetes decreases, I will begin to feel sick and dizzy and uncomfortable and I will start shaking all over. And then I panic.”

Feeling healthy and not wanting to provoke “something”

“I feel myself that I’m healthy og that’s why I don’t think there is any reason to say yes... I don’t see any reason to start touching something that’s healthy.”



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It's probably a hemorrhoid or a scratch

"So... when I got the test result, I thought, 'Oh well, it's probably just a little haemorrhoid sitting somewhere..."

"... It was probably my doctor who told me... you can risk getting a scratch if you're constipated and things like that... and... yes it has to have been him (her doctor) who told me that..."

Distrust in the accuracy of the iFOBT.

"...and then you hear many people saying they had it (blood) in theirs (stool), and my sister had it too, they told her, but there wasn't anything there. (...) (laughs) Then there was nothing there after all... that's why I don't believe them."

"I don't have the impression that, well I haven't been examined since, but I don't have any blood or anything on the paper or anything. Not at all. (...) I haven't had it since, there is no blood at all."



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Implications for practise

- Increased knowledge among general practitioners to improve patient communication.
- Diet plan for diabetics
- Admittance to hospital the day before colonoscopy



Implications for further research

- Registrations for Region Zealand
- Survey
 - How many?
 - How are they represented?

