Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) to triage patients with lower abdominal symptoms for suspected colorectal cancer in primary care: review of international guidelines.

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Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) to triage symptomatic patients in primary care

1. NICE. Quantitative faecal immunochemical tests to guide referral for colorectal cancer in primary care [DG30] [Internet]. 2017. Available from: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/dg30/chapter/1-Recommendations


Westwood et al.2
9 publications
8 in secondary care
1 primary care
(referred patients)

-> learn from other settings that use FIT in symptomatic patients in primary care
Methods

Aim
To explore how FITs are used in symptomatic primary care patients suspected of colorectal cancer worldwide and the underpinning evidence.

Search
MEDLINE, Embase, Scopus, ISI Web of knowledge, TRIP
Guideline databases
Cancer societies
Gastroenterology societies
Experts

2,431 unique hits
Results

25 guidelines from 15 countries

3 recommend FIT in symptomatic patients

Lower risk patients
Low grade of evidence;
Expert opinion

Countries not using FIT
• Not recommended
• Straight referral
• Colonoscopy
• FIT is used, but not in the guidelines
Internationally, FIT not widely used in symptomatic primary care patients

Might be related to context

Next steps
UK “national experiment”
Different cut offs needed?
Thank you for listening

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