

IMPLEMENTATION OF OPTICAL DIAGNOSIS WITH A RESECT AND DISCARD STRATEGY FOR DIMINUTIVE POLYPS IN THE ENGLISH BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME

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Poster

Colorectal

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The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme in England is implementing optical diagnosis with resect and discard strategy for diminutive polyps, becoming the first population-based screening programme worldwide to do so, with rollout beginning in 2024 following approval in 2023.

KEY POINTS

- Implementation follows the DISCARD3 study which demonstrated the strategy meets thresholds for feasibility and safety in a single screening centre with quality assurance processes.
- All 506 screening colonoscopists in England have been invited to undertake two-part accreditation requiring 85% accuracy for high confidence optical diagnoses and adequate photodocumentation in 90% of cases, with re-accreditation every 2 years.
- As of 31 March 2025, 9618 polyps have been resected and discarded, yielding cost savings equivalent to £355,866 and an estimated 3206 hours of saved histopathology time.
- Of 65 colonoscopists attending initial training in March 2024, 95% completed part 1 and 89% achieved full accreditation, with over half of all screeners in England (310/506) now participating following additional training days.
- Quality assurance and monitoring is ongoing, with further cost and time savings expected to increase substantially once rollout completes in 2027.

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