

TARGETED VERSUS POPULATION-BASED SCREENING AS A PRIMARY PREVENTIVE APPROACH TOWARDS GASTRIC CANCER: INTERIM RESULTS OF THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

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Presentation

Digestive Oncology

Endoscopy

Stomach & H. Pylori

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Targeted occupational screening for H. pylori in high-risk workforces (Irish Defence Forces, construction workers) achieved significantly higher response and participation rates (31% vs 14%, $p < 0.001$) than general practice-based screening in adults aged 30–34 years.

KEY POINTS

- Among 3030 invited individuals (2824 GP group, 206 targeted group), the targeted occupational approach yielded double the response rate (31% vs 14%, $p < 0.001$) and participation rate (30% vs 14%, $p < 0.001$) compared to general practice invitations.
- H. pylori true prevalence confirmed by serology and 13-C urea breath test was 10% in the targeted group and 14% in the GP group ($p = 0.47$), with no significant difference between screening strategies.
- Eradication with 10-day PYLERA (metronidazole/tetracycline/bismuth subcitrate) plus esomeprazole 40 mg twice daily was achieved in 100% of the targeted group (2/2) and 89% of the GP group (31/35) among those who completed post-treatment testing.
- Treatment adherence was 100% in the targeted group and 90% in the GP group, with no serious adverse events reported.
- The study suggests that occupational screening may be a more effective and resource-conscious strategy for H. pylori screening in low-to-intermediate gastric cancer risk countries like Ireland.

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