REGIONAL PILOT COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM IN ROMANIA: DATA ON QUANTITATIVE FECAL IMMUNOCHEMICAL TEST (FIT)

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Preliminary results from Romania's regional colorectal cancer screening pilot programs (2022-2023) show a high FIT return rate of 88.8% with 5.61% FIT positivity, but colonoscopy acceptance remains low at 52.3%.

KEY POINTS

- Between January 2022 and March 2023, three Romanian regions offered 79,860 FIT tests to individuals aged 50-74 years using a 20 µg Hb/g feces cut-off, with 70,989 tests returned for an 88.8% preliminary return rate.
- FIT return rates were similar between males (87.17%) and females (89.94%) and across age groups, with no regional differences observed.
- Of 70,008 FIT results analyzed, 5.61% were positive, 2.13% inconclusive, and 92.26% negative, with FIT positivity consistent across the three regions.
- The initial colonoscopy acceptance rate was 52.3%, which the authors consider requires improvement, though patients have a 6-month window to decide on the procedure.
- The authors attribute the high FIT return rate to direct involvement of family doctors and suggest the data meet EU quality parameters for potential national program expansion beyond 2024.

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