

Imaging alternatives to colonoscopy: CT colonography and colon capsule. European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) and European Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology (ESGAR) Guideline – Update 2020

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Standards and Guidelines

Endoscopy

Radiology & Imaging

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ESGE/ESGAR clinical practice guidelines recommend computed tomographic colonography as the radiological examination of choice for colorectal neoplasia diagnosis and specify its role across screening, surveillance, and incomplete colonoscopy scenarios.

KEY POINTS

- CTC is recommended as the radiological examination of choice for diagnosing colorectal neoplasia, while barium enema is not recommended (strong recommendation, high quality evidence).
- CTC is recommended preferably same or next day if colonoscopy is incomplete, with timing based on interdisciplinary decision; colon capsule endoscopy may be considered in centers with expertise and availability (strong recommendation for CTC, weak for CCE).
- When colonoscopy is contraindicated or not possible, CTC is recommended as an equally sensitive alternative for patients with alarm symptoms and as an acceptable alternative for non-alarm symptoms (strong recommendation, high quality evidence).
- In the absence of organized FIT-based screening programs, CTC is recommended as a colorectal cancer screening option when patients are adequately informed about test characteristics, benefits, and risks (strong recommendation, high quality evidence).
- CTC is recommended after positive FOBT or FIT with incomplete or unfeasible colonoscopy within organized screening programs; patients with at least one polyp of 6 mm or greater detected at CTC or CCE should be referred for endoscopic polypectomy (strong recommendation, moderate quality evidence).

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