# INTERVAL COLORECTAL CANCERS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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**Analysis of 30,723 colorectal cancer cases in the Czech Republic between 2016-2020 found that 64.4% of patients had no prior screening procedures, while 20.3% developed interval cancers after negative fecal occult blood testing.**

## KEY POINTS

- Among 30,723 colorectal cancer patients aged 55 and older, 45.0% presented with advanced stage disease (stages III and IV), and the majority (64.4%) had undergone no screening or diagnostic procedures in the preceding years.
- Preventive colonoscopy was associated with a low interval cancer rate of 0.9%, while 20.3% of all colorectal cancers occurred as interval cancers following negative screening fecal occult blood tests.
- Of patients with positive screening FOBT, 1,073 (3.5%) did not undergo subsequent diagnostic colonoscopy, and 447 of these presented with advanced stage disease.
- The authors suggest that the high rate of interval cancers after negative FOBT may reflect inappropriate test settings, low test sensitivity, or the higher volume of FOBT procedures performed compared to colonoscopy.
- This registry-based study may be most relevant to clinicians and policy makers evaluating population-based colorectal cancer screening program performance and the relative effectiveness of FOBT versus colonoscopy strategies.

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