

HAND IN HAND COLON - GUIDANCE FROM A COORDINATING CARE NURSE

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Hand in Hand Colon is a nurse-coordinated care program in Israel that guides patients with suspicious colonoscopy findings through diagnosis and treatment, reporting early outcomes from its first year of operation at one site.

KEY POINTS

- The project uses coordinating care nurses to provide one-on-one guidance to patients after colonoscopy reveals potential carcinoma, navigating them through biopsy results, specialist appointments, imaging, and treatment pathways.
- From March 2022 to January 2023 at Assuta Raanana, 72 patients were referred, with 92% receiving expedited imaging, 100% of biopsy analyses submitted within two weeks, and 100% of patients contacted and offered service.
- The program addresses systemic challenges in Israel including low OECD imaging availability, backed-up labs, and difficulties securing timely appointments across different HMOs.
- Coordinating care nurses receive training on supporting distressed patients and will receive group sessions to manage their own stress and emotions from working with cancer patients.
- The authors believe the project can improve patient success and overall experience based on first-year operation, though these are preliminary observations from a single site.

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