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Summary

ENGLISH NATIONAL ROOT-CAUSE ANALYSIS OF POST-COLONOSCOPY COLORECTAL CANCERS

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Colorectal

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A national English NHS audit of 1724 post-colonoscopy colorectal cancers found that 70% were potentially avoidable and 16% caused major harm or premature death due to delayed diagnosis.

KEY POINTS

- Of 1724 audited post-colonoscopy colorectal cancers occurring 6-48 months after index colonoscopy, 70% were judged potentially avoidable (4% definitely, 13% probably, 53% possibly)
- 17% of cases were diagnosed in a different hospital from where the index colonoscopy was performed, representing cases that would not normally be known to the original site
- Photographic evidence of colonoscopy completion and rectal retroflexion was absent or inadequate in over 50% of cases where it was deemed important
- WEO category distribution was 68% adequate examination, 18% inadequate examination, 9% no lesion resected, and 5% likely incomplete resection
- Patient, clinical, and administrative factors contributed to post-colonoscopy cancers in 10%, 10%, and 5% of cases respectively

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