

THE USEFULNESS OF FUSOBACTERIUM NUCLEATUM MEASUREMENT IN STOOL FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

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Poster

Colorectal

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A study of 41 colorectal cancer patients and 41 healthy controls found that combining fecal occult blood testing with ELISA measurement of antibodies against Fusobacterium nucleatum improved sensitivity from 61 percent to 73-90 percent depending on cut-off values.

KEY POINTS

- ELISA measurement of antibodies against FadA expressed by Fusobacterium nucleatum correlated well with PCR quantification ($r=0.722$, $p<0.001$) and offers a simpler alternative to PCR for colorectal cancer screening.
- Combining FOBT with Fusobacterium nucleatum ELISA achieved sensitivity of 90 percent and specificity of 78 percent at cut-off #1, or sensitivity of 73 percent and specificity of 93 percent at cut-off #2, compared to 61 percent sensitivity for FOBT alone.
- For advanced cancer stage II or higher, combined testing achieved 100 percent sensitivity at cut-off #1 and 79 percent at cut-off #2, while early cancer detection was 76 percent and 59 percent respectively.
- The authors note challenges in setting appropriate cut-off values for screening use and plan to evaluate effectiveness in populations with low screening participation rates.

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