

## IMPACT OF A COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHWESTERN OLTENIA REGION

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Poster

Colorectal

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**A colorectal cancer screening program in southwestern Romania enrolled 44,714 individuals aged 50-75 years from November 2020 to April 2023, identifying 100 tumors and 1,992 polyps through fecal immunochemical testing and colonoscopy.**

### KEY POINTS

- Of 38,610 individuals who received fecal immunochemical tests, 2,426 (6.28%) tested positive, and 1,262 colonoscopies were performed.
- Among those who underwent colonoscopy, 862 patients had significant lesions including 100 tumors and 1,992 polyps, while 400 (31.7%) had negative findings.
- Positive FIT results and positive colonoscopy findings both correlated with older age ( $p < 0.05$ ), and positive colonoscopy findings correlated with higher FIT values ( $p < 0.05$ ), but not with gender or geographic origin.
- The program experienced 1,004 refusals (41.38% of positive FIT results), which the authors state demonstrates the need for an awareness campaign.
- This material reports the first results of a large-scale CRC screening program in southwestern Romania and would be relevant to clinicians and public health professionals involved in population-based cancer screening initiatives.

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