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Summary

ADHERENCE TO THE HUNGARIAN POPULATION-BASED COLORECTAL SCREENING PROGRAM AND POTENTIAL INFLUENCING DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

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Colorectal

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Analysis of the Hungarian population-based colorectal cancer screening program from 2019 to 2022 found 20.8% overall adherence to fecal occult blood testing and 56.5% adherence to follow-up colonoscopy, with both gender and residence type influencing participation rates.

KEY POINTS

- Of 1,819,664 invited individuals aged 50 to 70, 377,552 returned screening kits, and among 36,995 with non-negative results, 20,902 underwent screening colonoscopy.
- Adherence to fecal occult blood testing declined over the four-year period, from 32.1% in 2019 to 14.1% in 2022, while colonoscopy adherence remained relatively stable, ranging from 52.3% to 58.9%.
- Female participants showed higher fecal occult blood test adherence than males (22.4% vs 18.8%), but slightly lower colonoscopy attendance (55.5% vs 57.2%).
- Type of residence significantly influenced both screening stages, with cities with county rights showing highest fecal occult blood test return rates (23.5%) and colonoscopy attendance (60.3%), while the capital had lowest colonoscopy adherence (50.2%).
- This study is relevant for public health professionals and policy makers seeking to understand participation patterns and demographic factors affecting colorectal cancer screening program effectiveness.

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