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Foreword



Few subjects in medicine have generated as much controversy as cancer screening. Although it has the potential to permit identification of disease at a preclinical or even preneoplastic stage, there is also considerable cost and a risk of overtreatment. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. Ismail Jatoi from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and colleagues from around North American provide a critical perspective on this topic entitled, "The History of Cancer Screening." They begin with general historical perspective. A subsequent section addresses theoretical considerations including sources of bias. Length, selection, sticky-diagnosis, and slippery-linkage biases are each addressed in significant detail. They go on to describe screening for specific cancers, including cervical, breast, colorectal, lung, ovarian, prostate, neuroblastoma, thyroid, and oral cancer. They conclude with a discussion of the future of screening. The presentation is lucid and provides the balanced perspectives of leaders in the field. This superb treatise is a significant addition to the literature on this subject and should become a valued resource for all surgeons engaged in the care of cancer patients.

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