



Answer to: “Is the National Danish Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme a success?”



The successful implementation of screening programs depends on many things including evidence for the efficacy of the chosen strategy and acceptance/uptake in the general population. In 2001 the Danish National Board of Health's report on Colorectal Cancer (CRC) screening recommended a national pilot-evaluation using fecal samples, which was done in Copenhagen and Vejle counties 2005–2006, and published in the 2008 Medical Technology Assessment report “Screening for tarmkræft”. Subsequently the National Board of Health established a working group that proposed national guidelines for CRC screening in Denmark. These were published in 2012 and implemented from 2014. We agree that this was a long process, but at the same time the process may have paved the way for achieving the requested short term goals successfully which we showed in the recently published paper. This is a very important milestone for continuous evaluation of programme performance and public trust in the screening program.

The Danish CRC screening programme is FIT based as this have been shown to be the most acceptable test for the target group, i.e. have the highest participation rate [1]. Even though colonoscopy screening finds more cancers, only people participating can benefit from this. From a population perspective FIT screening therefore seems to be the best choice.

Braillon writes that “uptake of the first screening round is a very poor surrogate for efficacy. Similarly, the uptake of colonoscopy when the fecal test is positive is far for quality. The endoscopists' performance (rate of adenoma detected) is an issue that should not be overlooked.” We agree with Alain Braillon and this is exactly why adenoma detection rate as well as colorectal cancer detection rate is also presented in our article [2].

Potential conflicts of interest

Sisse Njor has received a speaking fee from Norgine.

Morten Rasmussen is head of the colorectal cancer screening programme in the capital Region and has received speaking fees from Norgine and Ferring Pharmaceuticals.

Lennart Friis-Hansen was head of the colorectal cancer screening

programme in Region Zealand (March 2014 – September 2016), but has no other conflicts of interest.

Berit Andersen is head of the colorectal cancer screening programme in Central Denmark Region, but has no other conflicts of interest.

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