



Title	HTA Colorectal Cancer Screening: Scientific State-of-the-Art and Budget Impact for Belgium
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Aim

To evaluate whether, and under which conditions, colorectal cancer (CRC) screening could become an effective and cost-effective method to reduce the burden of CRC in Belgium.

Conclusions and results

This HTA report shows that CRC screening using biennial guaiac fecal occult blood test (FOBT) screening, followed by colonoscopy in case of a positive FOBT, in individuals aged 50 years and older can be a cost-effective mass screening program when properly organized.

Recommendations

To introduce a CRC screening program in Belgium. However, before such a program can be successfully implemented, several key issues need to be addressed and resolved. We recommend the implementation of a few pilot screening programs to investigate these issues.

Methods

We analyzed and evaluated the available evidence about CRC screening. We also evaluated the uncertainties surrounding CRC screening and identified areas where specific additional data are necessary before such a program can be successfully implemented in this country. To evaluate the financial consequences of implementing a biennial gFOBT-based screening program in Belgium, we conducted a budget impact analysis.

Further research/reviews required

Pilot screening programs are needed to investigate uncertainties for Belgium, mainly concerning screening participation, positivity and cancer detections rates, and organizational aspects.