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Modernizing Colorectal Cancer Screening With Cologuard

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Background

Resident clinics typically experience low colorectal cancer (CRC) screening completion rates. CRC is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States making early detection key for patient survival.

Endoscopic evaluation, the gold standard for CRC screening, is fraught with logistical changes, costs, and time commitment. Implementation of Cologuard will lessen costs and ultimately improve CRC screening.



Objective

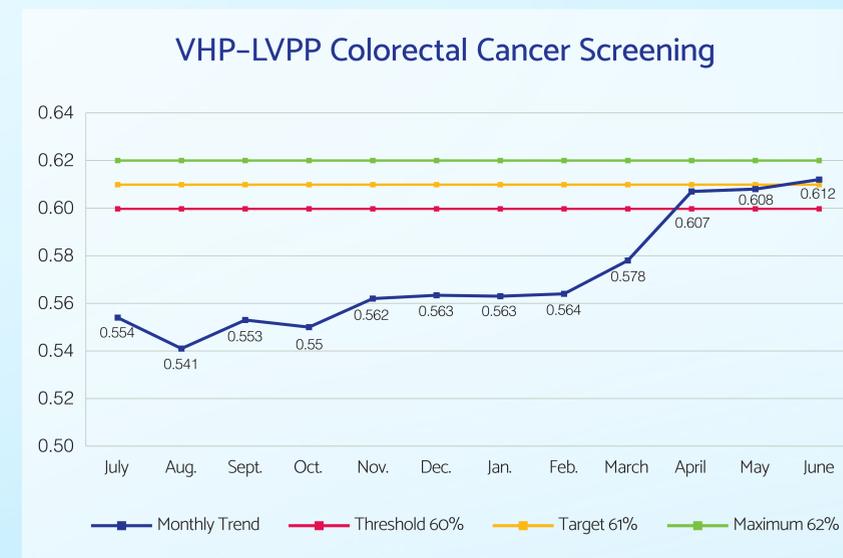
To improve CRC screening in patients at our Internal Medicine resident clinic to a goal of 60% or higher.

Methods

- Identified 1,130 patients who were currently overdue for CRC screening at our clinic.
- Medical record was individually reviewed and assessed for type of insurance, risk for colorectal cancer, and previous outreach attempts in regard to screening.
- Cologuard order placed for patients with Medicare insurance or certain private insurances who were average risk for CRC screening.
- Letter sent to the patient explaining that they were due for CRC screening and that a Cologuard test had been ordered on their behalf for them to complete.

Results

- Of the 283 patients for which a Cologuard order had been placed, 67 patients (24%) completed the test kit after 2 months.
- 13 patients (19%) had a positive result, 44 patients (66%) had a negative result, and 10 patients (15%) had an inadequate sample.
- Overall CRC screening rate at our clinic improved from 56.4% to 61%.



Conclusion

Utilization of Cologuard testing improved our CRC screening rates to above our goal of 60%.

Clinical Implications

- Covid-19 pandemic caused significant delay in scheduling colonoscopies.
- Patients at our resident clinic decline endoscopic evaluation secondary to cost, transportation issues, low health literacy, and intolerance of bowel prep.
- Cologuard testing could be completed in the convenience of their homes without Covid-19 risks.

283

Cologuard tests ordered for qualified patient.

67

Patients completed test