Gastroenterology

Arrange a Colon Cancer Screening
If you’re over 40 or have a history of colon cancer in your family you could be at risk. Schedule your colon cancer screening with us today!

Make an Appointment

Dr. Asadur J. Tchekmedyian
Montevideo - Uruguay

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SGU Sociedad de Gastroenterología del Uruguay
Symptoms that point to a condition or disease involving the digestive system.

- Abdominal pain
- Changes in bowel habits
- Colon cancer screening
- Difficulty in swallowing
- GI bleeding
- Jaundice
- Persistent constipation or diarrhea
- Persistent heartburn
- Persistent nausea or vomiting
- Rectal pain or bleeding

Worried about the GI health..... (stomach / colorectal cancer)!!
CLINICAL—ALIMENTARY TRACT

Burden of Gastrointestinal Disease in the United States: 2012 Update

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• GI diseases affect 70 million people annually
• 4.6 million hospitalizations
• 72 million ambulatory care visits
• Spendings: 142 BILLION per year

Just in the USA....
Gastrointestinal cancers, taken together, make up the largest group of malignancies.

Approximately 10% of consultations in general practice in the UK are for gastrointestinal symptoms or problems.

Gastroenterology represents about 10% of the work of hospital specialists.

Prescribing costs involved in the management of gastrointestinal disorders in general practice are around 14% of the drug budget.
Ambulatory surgery visits for upper endoscopy or colonoscopy procedures among adults 18 years of age and over, by age: United States, 1996 and 2006

Between 1996 and 2006, outpatient upper endoscopy and colonoscopy rates increased, while inpatient rates remained unchanged.
X-Ray Exams of the Digestive Tract

- CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy)
- Whole-Body CT SCAN
- Abdomen CT SCAN
- Abdomen x-ray
- Upper GI tests (Barium swallow. Upper GI series. Small bowel series)
- Lower GI Tests (Barium enema with/without air contrast
- ERCP
- Nuclear Medicine
- PET
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In fact, as whole body CT is being marketed directly to consumers, the consumers (patients) are now beginning to demand the test.
1. How often do your patients ask you for a CT SCAN or other Rx exam (PET, etc) for an individual evaluation without clinical indication?
   - A. Frequently
   - B. Esporadically
   - C. Never

2. In which sets will you agree to order an exam that uses X Rays (CT scan, etc) to an asymptomatic individual (not as part of screening or surveillance).

   Almost never!!

   "If the lawyer wants" 😊
Individual Health Assessment (IHA)

Risk perception / Risk management
FDA Raises Body Scan Safety Issue

June 05, 2001 | MARLENE CIMONS | TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON — Food and Drug Administration officials are worried that the growing popularity of full-body scans for early health screening may be exposing thousands of Americans to unnecessary and potentially dangerous radiation.
“FDA has not approved or cleared CT systems for any application or indication that involves “screening of individuals” who do not have symptoms or other high risk factors.

The American College of Radiology “does not believe there is sufficient scientific evidence to justify recommending total body computed tomographic (CT) screening for patients with no symptoms or a family history suggesting disease.”

American Association ofPhysicists in Medicine (AAPM): CT Body Scanning Not Scientifically Justified for Asymptomatic Patients.

“The bottom line is, until we have specific evidence that these studies are beneficial to the asymptomatic population, they should not be done”

Garth A. Koniver, MD, FACR, August, 2002
Whole Body Screening in the Healthy Asymptomatic Individual

To date, the College of Radiology (CoR) does not see any clear benefit from whole body screening CT scans in healthy individuals. Therefore, after reviewing all available current data, the CoR does not recommend whole body screening CT scan in healthy asymptomatic individuals.

College of Radiology CT Working Group
Dr Evelyn Ho Lai Ming (Chair)
Prof Dr Basri JJ Abdullah
Dr Alex Tang Ah Lak
Dr Asokan Raman Nair
Dr Gerard Lim Chin Chye
Individuals with a high risk of developing colorectal cancer should be managed as part of a comprehensive programme.

It is inappropriate for such patients to be investigated in commercial scanning centres.
Recommendations

“CTC for IHA and outside the NHS bowel cancer screening programme should only be undertaken in individuals in the appropriate age group and not, therefore, under the age of 45 years. **Subjects aged under 45 should only be screened if they have an increased risk of colorectal cancer and then in accordance with published guidelines.**”
How much does virtual colonoscopy cost?

A virtual colonoscopy at Diagnostic Imaging Associates costs $575. At this time insurance plans do not cover the cost of this screening procedure. Diagnostic Imaging Associates accepts cash, check, and Visa and MasterCard. Payment is required at the time of your virtual colonoscopy.

Top of Page

Where can I get my virtual colonoscopy?

Diagnostic Imaging Associates is the first radiology provider in Delaware to offer Virtual Check-Up™ and requires no referral from a doctor or insurance plan. All virtual screening studies can be performed at three of our seven convenient locations – Omega Imaging & MRI, Brandywine, and Glasgow.

Top of Page
Colon Health Check

Take a proactive approach to your health - book a Colon Health Check.

Who is this health check for?

Our Colon Health check is suitable for men and women aged 45 and above.

What does a Colon Health check involve?

A Colon Health check includes an advanced Computed Tomography (CT) scan of your bowel, known as a virtual colonoscopy, designed to check for polyps and other signs of bowel cancer.

The CT scanner produces two and three-dimensional images of the whole of the colon and rectum, enabling the radiologist to see the inside of the bowel and spot any abnormality. The most common abnormality to see is bowel polyps, larger polyps have a high chance of becoming cancerous.

If the scan detects any significant polyps, we will discuss this with you. The next step would normally be a conventional colonoscopy, which would enable a doctor to remove the polyps. Removing significant polyps dramatically reduces the chance of bowel cancer developing and, if bowel cancer is present within the polyp, may even be curative.

Virtual colonoscopy (up to 20 minutes)

- A simple CT scan, taking just 20 minutes.
- A consultation with a doctor to discuss the results of your scan. This will be scheduled about a week after your scan so the results can be processed in time.
Is CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) the “holy grail” in the IHA?
NO 11.870 CT colonographies (0.06%)
(that’s more than in screening optical colonoscopy)

Virtual Colonoscopy

- No pain? NO
- No colon preparation? NO
- No risk? NO

If possible

Despite the good intentions, more harm is often inflicted with these scans.

Supporters
- early detection
- prevention
- peace of mind.

Opponents
- false sense of security,
- out of pocket costs, and
- unnecessary radiation exposure.

Kolata, 2005

"Judging by your X-rays, I'd say you've been exposed to too much radiation."
“All the tests are too inaccurate for screening in low-risk populations, and none has been proven to lead to early, beneficial intervention.”
Is CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) the “holy grail” in the IHA?

No (at least yet).
As Chairman Mao said, the first step in solving a problem is calling it by its right name*.

**Doctor–Patient Relationship**

The best way to bring “peace of mind” is a good relationship!

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*Cost 0, no risk, Guaranteed: 100 % “customer” satisfaction!*

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Thank You!!

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Bush Reclains Powers After Colonoscopy
Bush Reclains Presidential Powers From VP Cheney After Ceding Them During Colonoscopy

President Bush waves as he walks from the Oval Office to the residence of the White House before his departure to Camp David, Friday, July 20, 2007, in Washington. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press Writer
CAMP DAVID, Md. Jul 21, 2007 (AP)

Doctors removed five small polyps from President Bush's colon on Saturday after he temporarily ceded presidential powers.
REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS
ON HEALTH CARE

U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C.

8:16 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, Vice President Biden, members of Congress,
Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, colleagues, it is an honor to stand before you today as we continue to work toward a health care system that is big enough to cover every American and strong enough to stand the test of time.

We believe every American should have health care that is affordable. We believe it is the right of every American to live without fear that one illness or accident will put you or your family or your business out of work. We believe no American should go broke because they get sick. (Applause.) And insurance companies will be required to cover, with no extra charge, routine checkups and preventive care, like mammograms and colonoscopies -- (applause) -- because there's no reason we shouldn't be catching diseases like breast cancer and colon cancer before they get worse. That makes sense, it saves money, and it saves lives. (Applause.)

(Applause.)

I want to thank the members of this body for your efforts and your support in these last several months, and especially those who've taken the difficult votes that have put us on a path to recovery. I also want to thank the American people for their patience and resolve during this trying time for our nation.
President Obama's Physical: Doctors Pick Apart Results
High Cholesterol, Virtual Colonoscopy Attract Physicians' Attention, Ire

By DAN CHILDS
March 3, 2010

The president may be "in excellent health and 'fit for duty'" according to his doctors, but that did not stop physicians around the country from scrutinizing Barack Obama's medical exam results after their release Sunday.

Some gastrointestinal experts questioned the decision to give the president a "virtual colonoscopy rather than the more accurate -- but more invasive-- conventional screening. Several cardiologists suggested that Obama's rising cholesterol levels would warrant a decision to put him on cholesterol-busting statins. Still, many doctors felt that the recommendations Obama received were appropriate -- namely, stub out his cigarette habit, and eat a bit healthier.

They were recommendations that White House press secretary Robert Gibbs...
March 1, 2010

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the physician members of the American College of Gastroenterology, we congratulate you on your recent "Election bill of health." We write to convey to you our concern over important aspects of colorectal screening in African-Americans.

The American College of Gastroenterology in 2009 issued evidence-based guidelines recommending colorectal cancer screening in African-Americans starting at age 45 rather than age 50. Colonoscopy is the preferred method of screening for colorectal cancer for African-Americans because of the higher incidence of colorectal cancer and a greater prevalence of colorectal polyps.

Our 11,000 physician members are concerned that you missed an important opportunity to set an example of the power of prevention by taking the test proven to prevent colorectal cancer by polyp detection and removal. We hope that any health care reform policies endorsed by the

"Scanning an asymptomatic person is a fishing expedition. For every abnormal entity found, there may be 100 more. It does no more than make patients anxious.

The bottom line: **It's a bad idea to reassure patients inappropriately**, and it's a bad idea to give information that's not helpful. **Scans should only be done for clinical indications.**"

Michael Grodin  
Director of the Law, Medicine and Ethics Program at BU.

Cited by: Dorothy Pennachio. Full-body scans--or scams?. Medical Economics 2002;15:62