COVID-19 CADTH REFERENCE LIST

Resumption of Routine Cancer Screening During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Guidelines

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**Authors:** Diksha Kumar, Charlene Argáez

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Resumption of Routine Cancer Screening

During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Research Question
What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding resuming routine cancer screening during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic?

Key Findings
One evidence-based guideline was identified regarding resuming routine cancer screening during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

Methods

Literature Search Methods
A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including PubMed, the Cochrane Library, the University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy was comprised of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were resumption of colorectal and cervical cancer screening services and COVID-19. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, and meta analyses, and guidelines. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2018 and August 5, 2020.

Selection Criteria
One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1. Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. Open access full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when abstracts were not available.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
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<th>Population</th>
<th>Asymptomatic adults eligible for routine cancer screening for colorectal, cervical, or breast cancer, during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic</th>
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| Intervention | Routine cancer screening tests and follow up procedures for:  
  - colorectal cancer (e.g., fecal immunoassay test, fecal occult blood test, colonoscopy)  
  - cervical cancer (e.g., human papillomavirus tests, pap smear, colposcopy)  
  - breast cancer (e.g., mammography) |
| Comparator | Not applicable |
| Outcomes | Recommendations regarding how to resume routine cancer screening programs; recommendations regarding how to address the backlog of testing or how to prioritize patients for screening; recommendations regarding safety precautions |
| Study designs | Evidence-based guidelines |
Results

One evidence-based guideline¹ was identified regarding resuming routine cancer screening during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

Additional references of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in the appendix.

Guidelines and Recommendations

   See: Table 3. Executive Summary of Recommendations, page 5
Appendix — Further Information

Clinical Practice Guidelines — Methodology Unclear

See: 6.8. Diagnostic Imaging, page 21


PubMed: PM32457036

**Review Articles**

PubMed: PM32522513

PubMed: PM32347964

**Additional References**


PubMed: PM32748251