

Network Colorectal Cancer Care in Argentina: Structure, Processes and Results.

Provincial Scenarios for to the Implementation of Public Initiatives on Prevention and Early Detection

**Daniel Maceira
(coordinator)**

Abstract

Colorectal cancer (CRC) in Argentina ranks third in incidence among all cancers, and fifth in mortality (IARC- Globocan, 2012). However, it is a type of cancer where prevention has high impact: early detection through screening RAC adenoma and slow growth is cost-effective according to international evidence in developed countries, and their use in population screening programs significantly decreases the incidence and mortality. In Argentina, Gualdrini and Iummato (2011) shows that there have been some isolated initiatives of awareness on the prevention of CRC or screening in people at risk, with no impact assessment analysis about their results. The National Program for Prevention and Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer through the National Cancer Institute aims to achieve universal access, and quality assurance procedures and processes with systematic mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, with the ultimate goal of reducing the incidence of this disease and its mortality rate in Argentina. The program proposes the control and monitoring of vulnerable groups as well as the implementation of screening at the general population level, by using the immunochemical fecal occult blood test (FOBT) annually. Recently, Espinola, Maceira and Palacios (2015) checks the cost-effectiveness of the implementation of FOBT in Argentina, highlighting that differences in the provision and quality of human and technological resources affect the possibility of implementation and effective impact results of the test initiative. From this perspective, a prevention strategy in CRC requires coordination of actions within the network of providers, ranging from health workers' training up to the identification of proper processes of referral within the health care network across levels of care. The research plan recognizes different realities and priorities across provinces within the country, in terms of economic, technological and human resources availability. Therefore, the goal is enrich the original analysis by analyzing different capabilities of resolution to enhance the policy, identifying mechanisms to strengthen the abilities to lead towards a more successful implementation.