Colonoscopy quality across Europe: a report of the European Colonoscopy Quality Investigation (ECQI) Group

Authors
Cristiano Spada1,2, Anastasios Koulaouzidis3, Cesare Hassan4, Pedro Amaro5, Anurag Agrawal6, Lene Brink7, Wolfgang Fischbach8, Matthias Hünger9, Rodrigo Jover10, Urpo Kinnunen11, Akiko Ono12, Árpád Patai13, Silvia Pecere14, Lucio Petruzziello14, Jürgen F. Riemann15, Bharat Amlani16, Harry Staines17, Ann L. Stringer18, Ervin Toth19, Giulio Antonelli14,20,21, Lorenzo Fuccio22

Institutions
1 Digestive Endoscopy Unit and Gastroenterology, Fondazione Poliambulanza, Brescia, Italy
2 Digestive Endoscopy Unit, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy
3 Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin–Department of Social Medicine and Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Szczecin, Zachodniopomorskie, Poland
4 Digestive Endoscopy, Nuovo Regina Margherita Hospital, Rome, Italy
5 Gastroenterology Department, Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
6 Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Doncaster, UK
7 Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Copenhagen University, Gastro Unit, Division of Endoscopy, Herlev, Denmark
8 Gastroenterologie und Innere Medizin, Aschaffenburg, Germany
9 Private Practice for Internal Medicine, Würzburg, Germany
10 Hospital General Universitario de Alicante – Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria ISABIAL – Servicio de Medicina Digestiva, Alicante, Spain
11 Tampere University Hospital-Gastroenterology, Tampere, Finland
12 Hospital Clínico Universitario Virgen de la Arrixaca-Gastroenterology, El Palmar, Murcia, Spain
13 Markusovszky University Teaching Hospital-Gastroenterology, Szombathely, Hungary
14 Digestive Endoscopy Unit, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rome, Italy
15 LebensBlicke Foundation, Ludwigshafen, Germany
16 Norgine Ltd-Medical Affairs, Harefield, UK
17 Sigma Statistical Services Ltd, Saint Andrews, UK
18 ECQI Secretariat, Buckinghamshire, UK
19 Skåne University Hospital, Lund University, Department of Gastroenterology, Malmö, Sweden
20 Department of Anatomical, Histological, Forensic Medicine and Orthopedics Sciences, “Sapienza” University of Rome, Rome, Italy
21 Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy Unit, Ospedale dei Castelli Hospital, Ariccia, Rome, Italy
22 Gastroenterology Unit, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, S. Orsola-Malpighi Hospital, Bologna, Italy

submitted 15.10.2020
accepted after revision 10.3.2021

Bibliography
Endosc Int Open 2021; 09: E1456–E1462
DOI 10.1055/a-1486-6729
ISSN 2364-3722
© 2021. The Author(s).
This is an open access article published by Thieme under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonDerivative-NonCommercial License, permitting copying and reproduction so long as the original work is given appropriate credit. Contents may not be used for commercial purposes, or adapted, remixed, transformed or built upon. (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)
Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany

Corresponding author
Cristiano Spada, Fondazione Poliambulanza – Digestive Endoscopy Unit and Gastroenterology, Via L. Bissolati 57, 25124 Brescia, Italy
Fax: +390303518221
cristianospada@gmail.com

Supplementary material is available under https://doi.org/10.1055/a-1486-6729

ABSTRACT
Background and study aims The European Colonoscopy Quality Investigation (ECQI) Group comprises expert colonoscopists and investigators with the aim of raising colonoscopy standards. We assessed the levels of monitoring and achievement of European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) performance measures (PMs) across Europe using responses to the ECQI questionnaires.
Methods

The questionnaire comprises three forms: institution and practitioner questionnaires are completed once; a procedure questionnaire is completed on multiple occasions for individual total colonoscopies. ESGE PMs were approximated as closely as possible from the data collected via the procedure questionnaire. Procedure data could provide rate of adequate bowel preparation, cecal intubation rate (CIR), withdrawal time, polyp detection rate (PDR), and tattooing resection sites.

Results

We evaluated ECQI questionnaire data collected between June 2016 and April 2018, comprising 91 practitioner and 52 institution questionnaires. A total of 6445 completed procedure forms were received. Institution and practitioner responses indicate that routine recording of PMs is not widespread: adenoma detection rate (ADR) is routinely recorded in 29% of institutions and by 34% of practitioners; PDR by 42% and 47%, CIR by 62% and 64%, bowel preparation quality by 56% and 76%, respectively.

Procedure data showed a rate of adequate bowel preparation of 84.2%, CIR 73.4%, PDR 40.5%, mean withdrawal time 7.8 minutes and 12.2% of procedures with possible removal of a non-pedunculated lesion ≥ 20 mm reporting tattooing.

Conclusions

Our findings clearly show areas in need of quality improvement and the importance of promoting quality monitoring throughout the colonoscopy procedure.

Introduction

Colonoscopy has been shown to greatly reduce colorectal cancer (CRC) incidence and mortality as it allows for both identification of early neoplasia and removal of precancerous lesions [1, 2]. While adenoma detection rate (ADR) is considered a primary quality indicator [3, 4], it is dependent on other quality measures, such as cecal intubation rate (CIR), withdrawal time, and quality of bowel preparation [5].

There is considerable variability in the quality of colonoscopy [6] with a three- to six-fold variation in ADR among endoscopists [7, 8]. Given the substantial impact of CRC on patients and healthcare systems [9, 10], and that screening can be effective provided the services are of high quality [11], it is clearly important to ensure that colonoscopy is delivered to a high standard across the endoscopy community.

The European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) has published both performance measures (PMs) for lower gastrointestinal endoscopy [12] and PMs for the endoscopy service as a whole [13], providing to all stakeholders (patients and their advocacy groups; service leaders; staff, including endoscopists; professional societies; payers and regulators) recommendations on the necessary parameters needed to meet the requirements of the ESGE quality improvement initiatives. These measures include those related to leadership, organisation, and service delivery, as well as those associated with the patient journey, and comprise recommendations for a minimum and target standard for endoscopy services to achieve. A crucial aspect of the guidelines is periodical monitoring of PMs both on individual practitioners, as well as at institutional service levels.

The European Colonoscopy Quality Investigation (ECQI) Group comprises expert colonoscopists and investigators with the aim of raising colonoscopy standards across Europe. ECQI does not wish to create any specific quality criteria, but rather document how the recent ESGE guidelines are implemented in daily practice and assess the quality of colonoscopy practice in Europe. We aimed to assess the levels of monitoring and achievement of ESGE PMs across Europe using responses to the ECQI questionnaires.

Methods

At the inaugural meeting of the ECQI Group in 2013, the Group chose to develop a clinical practice questionnaire to enable colonoscopists to evaluate current practice. The online questionnaire was based on the ESGE position statement on quality in screening colonoscopy published in 2012 [14]. An iterative process was used to hone the questionnaire ensuring that the time to complete the form was not too onerous. It was validated in November 2014 and May 2015 during two pilot phases, via a collaborative approach to ensure pertinent information was being recorded and data on 1861 patient procedures were collected [15, 16]. The questionnaire comprises three forms: institution (18 questions) and practitioner questionnaires (12 questions) are each completed once, recording routine practice at respective levels; a procedure questionnaire (34 questions) is completed on multiple occasions for individual total colonoscopies (see Supplementary Material).

Participation was open to all Europe-based colonoscopists via web-based registration at the ECQI Group website. Awareness of the questionnaire came from abstracts, posters, presentations at national and international congresses and individual communications from ECQI Group members. Interested participants applied via the ECQI Group website or to the ECQI Group Secretariat. Following verification, log-in access to the web-based questionnaire site was provided by email.

Calculation of performance measures

ESGE PMs [12] were approximated as closely as possible from the data collected via the procedure questionnaire. We determined that our questionnaires could provide approximations for rate of adequate bowel preparation, CIR, withdrawal time, polyp detection rate (PDR), and tattooing resection sites (Table 1). For tattooing, we were unable to include polyps with suspicious macroscopic features regardless of size, as we were limited in the ability to determine the presence of suspicious macroscopic features due to questionnaire design, so this measure only includes procedures with a non-pedunculated polyp ≥20 mm. We were also unable to determine from ques-
tionnaire responses whether tattooing was performed on the resection site; we were able to determine whether it was performed during the same procedure as an endoscopic intervention that could have resulted in polyp removal. We also provide an indication of polyp removal rate for procedures with a polyp ≥ 5 mm, as our questionnaire was unable to determine the polyp retrieval rate for histopathology examination.

A score of ≥ 6 on the Boston Bowel Preparation Scale (BBPS) was used to define adequate bowel preparation [17]. In procedures with data missing for one segment, if it could not be determined that the BBPS was definitely either ≥ 6 or < 6, procedures were classified as missing, along with all other procedures with more than one segment missing data. To calculate CIR, only those procedures reporting the cecum as the intended endpoint were included, which excluded some procedures with terminal ileum/neo-terminal ileum as the intended endpoint, because given the questionnaire design, we could not determine whether the cecum was photo-documented in these procedures.

Diagnostic and screening procedures were determined using the reason that was provided for performing them. Our questionnaire had no method of collecting histopathological data so ADR could not be calculated. Polyp detection was regarded as positive if either a polyp or a polypectomy was reported. Age at the date of the procedure was derived assuming the patient’s year of birth was recorded (to preserve anonymity, only the date of birth was June 30).

Calculation of mean withdrawal time was restricted to those procedures (screening or diagnostic) in which the cecum was the intended endpoint, the endpoint was reached, and no endoscopic intervention was reported. Procedures with a definite non-pedunculated lesion ≥ 20 mm were identified when in any segment reporting a polyp ≥ 20 mm, only non-pedunculated classifications were recorded for that segment. This may have excluded some non-pedunculated lesions ≥ 20 mm, as it excluded procedures in which both pedunculated and non-pedunculated lesions were reported in a segment with a polyp ≥ 20 mm. We only included procedures in which an endoscopic intervention that could have removed the polyp was reported, i.e. endoscopic mucosal resection, endoscopic submucosal dissection, polypectomy (complete or incomplete) or biopsy.

### Results

We evaluated ECQI questionnaire data collected between June 2, 2016 and April 30, 2018, comprising 91 completed practitioner questionnaires and 52 completed institution questionnaires from 12 European countries. A total of 6445 completed procedure forms were received from 25 academic hospitals (2270/6445, 35.2 %), 14 hospitals (1235/6445, 19.1 %), eight private institutions (2657/6445, 41.2 %), three group practices (160/6445, 2.5 %), and one other (123/6445, 1.9 %). Results are summarized in Table 2 and Table 3.

### Pre-procedure

A reason for colonoscopy was provided for 6413 of 6445 procedures (99.5 %). These were classified as: diagnostic (3182/6445, 49.3 %), screening (1274/6445, 19.8 %), follow-up (1837/6445, 28.5 %), previous unsuccessful procedure (99/6445, 1.5 %), and other (21/6445, 0.3 %). Screening was classified as “due to familial risk” in 29.7 % (378/1274) of procedures, “following a positive screening test” in 39.2 % (499/1274) and “without a pre-screening test” in 30.9 % (394/1274), and one other.

The collected responses showed that scale-based bowel cleansing quality was reported as “routinely recorded” by 56 % of institutions and “routinely used” by 76 % of practitioners. From the procedure data, 84.2 % (5427/6445) of procedures reported an adequate bowel cleansing (data missing for 209 procedures, 3.2 %).

### Completeness of procedure

CIR was reported as “routinely recorded” by 64 % of practitioners and by 62 % of institutions. Procedure data showed that the cecum was the intended endpoint in 69.4 % (4473/6445) of
procedures (ileum 28.1%, anastomosis 1.3%, data unavailable 1.2%). For those colonoscopies in which the cecum was the intended endpoint, 94.7% reported reaching the cecum but only 77.5% (3281/4234) of those stated endpoint photo-documentation.

Identification of pathology
ADR was reported as “routinely recorded” by only 34% of practitioners and in 29% of institutions. PDR was “routinely recorded” by 47% of practitioners and in 42% of institutions. Retraction time was “routinely recorded” by 60% of practitioners.

At least one polyp was detected in 40.5% (1363/3365) of qualifying procedures. Withdrawal time was assessed in the 1150 qualifying procedures providing data, the overall mean (± SD) withdrawal time was 7.8 ± 3.1 minutes, the median withdrawal time was 7 minutes.

Management of pathology
The proportion of practitioners reporting “routinely recording” polyp removal rate was 44% and the polyp retrieval rate was 37%. Routine use of a polyp classification scale was reported by 77% of practitioners and 54% routinely placed tattoos following polyp removal based on guidelines.

In the 1294 procedures where a polyp >5 mm was reported, 89.3% (1156/1294) reported an endoscopic intervention (Table 4). In procedures in which a non-pedunculated lesion ≥20 mm could be definitively identified and an endoscopic intervention to remove the polyp reported, 12.2% (17/139) reported tattooing.

Complications, patient experience and post-procedure
Patient satisfaction was recorded in 25% of institutions, during-procedure complications were reported to be “routinely recorded” in 83%, but post-procedure complications by only 56%. Quality guidelines were reported to be “routinely followed” in 69% of institutions.

### Table 2
Proportion of institutions and practitioners that routinely record performance measures.

| Performance measure                          | Institutions N=52 | Practitioners N=91 |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Rate of adequate bowel preparation           | 56%               | 76%                |
| Cecal intubation rate                        | 62%               | 64%                |
| Retraction time                              | NA                | 60%                |
| Adenoma detection rate                       | 29%               | 34%                |
| Polyp detection rate                         | 42%               | 47%                |
| Polyp removal rate                           | NA                | 44%                |
| Polyp retrieval rate                         | NA                | 37%                |
| Use of a polyp classification scale          | NA                | 77%                |
| Tattooing based on guidelines               | NA                | 54%                |
| Patient satisfaction                         | 25%               | NA                 |
| During-procedure complications               | 83%               | NA                 |
| Post-procedure complications                 | 56%               | NA                 |
| NA, not asked                                |                   |                    |

### Table 3
Summary of evaluated performance measures.

| Performance measure                          | ESGE minimum standard | ESGE target standard | ECQI findings     |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Rate of adequate bowel preparation           | ≥90%                  | ≥95%                 | 84.2%             |
| Cecal intubation rate                        | ≥90%                  | ≥95%                 | 73.4% (94.7% with written documentation) |
| Withdrawal time                              | Mean 6 minutes        | Mean 10 minutes      | Mean 7.8 minutes  |
| Polyp detection rate                         | 40%                   | None set             | 40.5%             |
| Tattooing resection sites (non-pedunculated ≥20 mm) | Unknown          | 100%                 | 12.2%             |
| Polyp removal rate (>5 mm)                    | –                     | –                    | 89.3%             |

ESGE, European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

### Table 4
Endoscopic interventions in procedures with polyps >5 mm (multiple options possible).

| Type of endoscopic intervention | No. polyps >5 mm N=1156 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Endoscopic mucosal resection    | 154                      |
| Endoscopic submucosal dissection| 14                       |
| Polypectomy (complete)          | 1012                     |
| Polypectomy (incomplete)        | 18                       |
| Argon plasma coagulation        | 4                        |
| Biopsy                          | 41                       |
| Tattooing                       | 40                       |

Note: Biopsies performed were not necessarily related to polyp resection.
Discussion

In this study, we sought to evaluate the adoption of colonoscopy PMs across Europe. In 2017, the ESGE published PMs for lower gastrointestinal endoscopy [12], recommending that endoscopy services across Europe should adopt a list of key and minor PMs for objective assessment and evaluation in daily practice at both center and individual endoscopist level. Several key performance indicators have been established for adoption to achieve consistently high-quality endoscopic practice. We analysed a sample of procedures conducted across Europe, between June 2016 and April 2018, spanning a period before and after publication of the PMs, to evaluate the baseline achievement of standards, as defined by the ESGE. The analysis was performed at institution, practitioner and procedure levels. A set of variables listed in the ESGE lower gastrointestinal endoscopy PM document was considered. Interestingly, although some of the PMs seem to be relatively commonly assessed, documentation of other relevant PMs is far from routine.

Scale-based bowel cleansing quality was reported as routinely recorded in only 56 % of institutions, and an adequate level was achieved in 84.2 % of procedures, slightly below the ≥90 % minimum standard as recommended by ESGE [12]. The quality of bowel preparation is crucial for the overall efficacy of colonoscopy, with a suboptimal ADR and CIR related to an inadequate cleansing level and a higher risk of interval cancer. [18, 19] In addition, a suboptimal cleansing level results in further costs and organizational issues since colonoscopy needs to be rescheduled or patients may be referred for alternative tests [20, 21].

CIR was reported as routinely recorded in only 62 % of institutions. In addition, using the ESGE definition of CIR, which requires both written and photo-documentation, only 73.4 % of procedures met requirements, which is short of the ≥90 % minimum standard. However, when considering just written documentation, 94.7 % reported reaching the cecum, almost reaching the ≥95 % target standard.

Overall, PDR can be considered as a surrogate for ADR and is easier to monitor, because it is automatically collated by endoscopists and institutions while generating procedure reports and/or billing codes, making it more practical to measure than ADR, even if less robust. Although our data show that PDR is more commonly recorded, it seems even this parameter falls short of the recommended standard, with only a minority of practitioners (47 %) and institutions (42 %) routinely recording the quality measure. When looking at the procedure forms, in terms of PDR, at least one polyp was detected in 40.5 % of qualifying procedures, being borderline with the ≥40 % ESGE minimum standard of screening and diagnostic colonoscopies performed in those aged 50 years or older. Initiatives such as education, adequate training, creating awareness, feedback, and colonoscopy quality benchmarking have been shown to contribute to improvement in these parameters [22–25].

Retraction time is recorded by only 60 % of practitioners. Procedure data indicate the mean withdrawal time was 7.8 ± 3.1 minutes, which reached the minimum standard (i.e. mean 6 minutes) defined by Kaminski et al [12]. Although we did not directly measure ADR, our data show that it was routinely recorded by only 34 % of practitioners and in 29 % of institutions. When considering the role of ADR as a universal key quality indicator, this is quite disappointing and might be one of the limiting factors for ADR underperformers.

Measurement of complication rate only partially entered routine practice: the collected responses showed that although during-procedure complications are usually recorded by the majority of institutions (83 %), almost one of two institutions (56 %) do not record post-procedure complications. This is comparable to the results by Adler et al [26]. This substantial under-recording probably reflects difficulty in monitoring patients after the procedure and the lack of availability of methods that allow the identification of a late complication.

Patient feedback, to enhance patient experience and colonoscopy quality, is important, and should be routinely monitored with adequate feedback mechanisms in place [12,13]. However, only a minority of institutions (25 %) record patient satisfaction and this merits further evaluation. Such underperformance in terms of recording of patient experience could be related to cultural issues (at least in some countries) as well as to logistic limitations related to the collection of patient feedback.

An important strength of this study is its size, both in terms of the number of colonoscopies analyzed and the Europe-wide coverage of the survey. Many colonoscopy quality studies are either single-center or restricted to a small number of endoscopists. However, we accept that both the present study and the questionnaires have some limitations. The current findings are not based on consecutive reporting and a selection bias for those procedures recorded cannot be ruled out. Nevertheless, it reflects real-world data and can provide an efficient method to monitor colonoscopy quality measures both at an institutional and endoscopist level, with the aim to support initiatives and improve clinical practice standards. It identifies the quality measures that are adhered to, and how effective they can be in driving standards. Another important limitation of the present study is the self-selection of endoscopists across Europe for participation in the survey rather than random selection. It is debatable whether this self-selection bias might have selected a subgroup of endoscopists not representative of the general endoscopist population, leading to better results than in the general population of endoscopists. The same limitations, however, apply to all measures of voluntary quality control.

It is noteworthy that the publication of the ESGE PMs occurred after this version of the questionnaires was compiled; therefore, there are some areas in which the ECQI measures do not exactly match those specified by the ESGE [12].

In general, looking at the picture coming from the present study, we should admit that quality measures for colonoscopy are far from being routinely recorded in clinical practice. Performance measurement is the first step in a process aimed at improving quality in colonoscopy. Further steps include the identification of underperformers, of the barriers that need to be addressed, and subsequent reevaluation after corrective interventions have taken place. Measurement of performance parameters is the prerequisite without which concrete in-
Improvement actions cannot be developed. Initiatives such as education, creating awareness, and training should be implemented to contribute to the overall improvement of colonoscopy. The final goal should be to improve quality, reducing gaps between clinical practice and evidence.

Conclusions

In conclusion, our findings clearly show areas in need of quality improvement and the importance of promoting quality monitoring throughout the colonoscopy procedure. They also underscore the necessity of regularly recording individual quality parameters to measure daily performance against well-established recommendations and evaluate their wider dissemination and adoption.

Acknowledgements

The ECQI Group is grateful for the continued financial support provided by Norgine Ltd. In October 2016, the ECQI Group became an independent working party, free to obtain funding from any reputable source. While it is not possible to acknowledge everyone individually, we are indebted and grateful to all of those who took the time to complete our questionnaires and provide an insight into their real-world practice. We would like to thank the practitioners who contributed to the ECQI dataset from the following institutions. In Belarus: the NN Alexandrov National Cancer Centre of Belarus; in Denmark: Herlev Hospital, Kirurgisk Klinik Frederikssund, Kirurgisk Klinik Syddanmark, Odense University Hospital Svendborg Sygehus; in Finland: Tampere University Hospital; in Germany: Allgemeines Krankenhaus Celle AKH, Gemeinschaftspraxis für Gastroenterologie und Innere Medizin Aschaffenburg, Internisten am Dominikanerplatz Würzburg, Klinikum Aschaffenburg-Alzenau, Mathias-Spatl Rheine, Sankt Elisabeth Hospital Gütersloh; in Hungary: Markusovszky University Teaching Hospital, University of Pécs, University of Szeged; in Italy: Centro di Riferimento Oncologico IRCCS, CTO and Sirai Hospitals Sardinia, Fondazione Poliambulanza Brescia, Fondazione Policlinico Gemelli Rome, Policlinico Umberto I “Sapienza” University of Rome; in Portugal: Centro Hospitalar do Baixo Vouga Aveiro, Centro Hospitalar Tondela-Viseu, Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Coimbra, Endocentro – Idealmed UHC Coimbra, Portuguese Oncology Institute Coimbra, ULS Guarda; in Romania: Gastroenterology and Hepatology Center -TVM- Cluj-Napoca, Prof. Dr. Octavian Fodor Regional Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Research Center of Gastroenterology and Hepatology University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova; in Russia: Yaroslavl Regional Cancer Hospital; in Spain: Hospital Álvaro Cunqueiro Vigo, Hospital Clínico Universitario Virgen de la Arrixaca, Hospital General Universitario de Alicante, Hospital del Mar Barcelona, Hospital Nisa Sevilla Aljarafe, Hospital Universitario de Fuenlabrada, Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, Hospital Universitari i Politècnic La Fe Valencia; in Sweden: Ängelholm Hospital, Blekinge Hospital Karlshamn-Karlskorna, Capio St Göran’s Hospital Stockholm, Central Hospital Karlstad, Centralssjukhuset Kristianstad, GHP Stockholm gastro Center, Helsingborg Hospital, Institute of Medicine Huddinge Karolinska Hospital Stockholm, Karolinska University Hospital Stockholm, Skåne University Hospital Malmö, South Ålvsborg Hospital Borås, Specialistläkar- na i Lund, Sunderby Hospital Luleå, University Hospital Linköping, Ystad Hospital; in the United Kingdom: Barnsley District General Hospital, Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust Grange Medical Centre, Royal Liverpool and Broad-green University Hospitals, The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

Competing interests

Dr. Spada is a consultant and advisory board participant for Norgine, AlfaSigmoid, Medtronic, Given Imaging, Covidien, Olympus, Intromedic, and AnX Robotics. A. Koulaouzidis reports material support from IntroMedic/SynMedUK, Jinshian/Aqualant; honoraria from Ferring UK, Dr Falk Pharma UK; travel support from Norgine, Jinshian/Aqualiant; advisory board Dr Falk Pharma UK, Tillots; Given Imaging Ltd/ESGE research grant 2011; cofounder AJM Med-i-caps Ltd. P. Amaro reports consultancy and advisory board participant for Norgine. L. Brink reports consultancy & advisory board participant AMBU; travel support from Norgine. W. Fischbach reports consultancy and advisory board participant to Norgine; speaking – Abbott, Bio Merieux, Falk; advisory speaking – Aptalis, Fresenius Biotech, Pfizer; advisory – Boehringer Ingelheim, mod update. M. Hänger reports travel support from Norgine. R. Jover reports consultancy – Norgine, MSD, CI Supply, CPP Pharma. U. Kinnunen reports travel support from Norgine. A. Ono reports travel support from Norgine. B. Amlani reports employee of Norgine. E. Toth reports consultancy and advisory board participant for Norgine. A. Agrawal, G. Antonelli, C. Hassan, Á. Patai, S. Pecere, L. Petruzzelli, J.F. Riemann, L. Fuccio declare that they have no conflict of interest. Dr. Staines received fees for statistical services and Ann L. Stringer received fees for manuscript preparation from the ECQI Secretariat.

Funding

Funding from Norgine Ltd was received by Aspen Medical Media for provision of ECQI Secretarial support and by Pharmatechelligence, for management of the questionnaire database. Award ID: NA

References

[1] Siegel R, Naishadham D, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2012. CA Cancer J Clin 2012; 62: 10–29
[2] Edwards BK, Ward E, Kohler BA et al. Annual report to the nation on the status of cancer, 1975-2006, featuring colorectal cancer trends and impact of interventions (risk factors, screening, and treatment) to reduce future rates. Cancer 2010; 116: 544–573
[3] Kaminiski MF, Regula J, Kraszewska E et al. Quality indicators for colonoscopy and the risk of interval cancer. N Engl J Med 2010; 362: 1795–1803
[4] Corley DA, Jensen CD, Marks AR et al. Adenoma detection rate and risk of colorectal cancer and death. N Engl J Med 2014; 370: 1298–1306
[5] Anderson JC, Butterly LF. Colonoscopy: quality indicators. Clin Transl Gastroenterol 2015; 6: e77
[6] Allen JL. Quality measures for colonoscopy: where should we be in 2015? Curr Gastroenterol Rep 2015; 17: 10
[7] Barclay RL, Vicari JJ, Doughty AS et al. Colonoscopic withdrawal times and adenoma detection during screening colonoscopy. N Engl J Med 2006; 355: 2533–2541

[8] Chen SC, Rex DK. Endoscopist can be more powerful than age and male gender in predicting adenoma detection at colonoscopy. Am J Gastroenterol 2007; 102: 856–861

[9] Yabroff KR, Borowski L, Lipscomb J. Economic studies in colorectal cancer: challenges in measuring and comparing costs. J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr 2013; 2013: 62–78

[10] Van Cutsem E, Borràs JM, Castells A et al. Improving outcomes in colorectal cancer: where do we go from here? Eur J Cancer 2013; 49: 2476–2485

[11] von Karsa L, Patnick J, Segnan N et al. European guidelines for quality assurance in colorectal cancer screening and diagnosis: overview and introduction to the full supplement publication. Endoscopy 2013; 45: 51–59

[12] Kaminski MF, Thomas-Gibson S, Bugajski M et al. Performance measures for lower gastrointestinal endoscopy: a European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) Quality Improvement Initiative. Endoscopy 2017; 49: 378–397

[13] Valori R, Cortas G, de Lange T et al. Performance measures for endoscopy services: a European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) Quality Improvement Initiative. Endoscopy 2018; 50: 1186–1204

[14] Rembacken B, Hassan C, Riemann JF et al. Quality in screening colonoscopy: position statement of the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE). Endoscopy 2012; 44: 957–968

[15] Riemann JF, Demedts I, Agrawal A et al. ECQI Group: Improving standards in colonoscopy through a practice level audit tool [PO160]. United European Gastroenterol J 2015; 3: (Suppl. 05): A191

[16] Jover R, Agrawal A, Amaro P et al. Pilot results of the ECQI self-assessment questionnaire to evaluate quality in colonoscopy in Europe [PO165]. United European Gastroenterol J 2016; 05: (Suppl. 05): A213–A214

[17] Calderwood AH, Jacobson BC. Comprehensive validation of the Boston Bowel Preparation Scale. Gastrointest Endosc 2010; 72: 686–692

[18] Pontone S, Hassan C, Maselli R et al. Multiple, zonal and multi-zone adenoma detection rates according to quality of cleansing during colonoscopy. United European Gastroenterol J 2016; 4: 778–783

[19] Radaelli F, Paggi S, Hassan C et al. Split-dose preparation for colonoscopy increases adenoma detection rate: a randomised controlled trial in an organised screening programme. Gut 2017; 66: 270–277

[20] Wang L, Sprung BS, DeCross AJ et al. Split-dose bowel preparation reduces the need for early repeat colonoscopy without improving adenoma detection rate. Dig Dis Sci 2018; 63: 1320–1326

[21] Murphy D, Jenks M, McCool R et al. A systematic review and cost analysis of repeat colonoscopies due to inadequate bowel cleansing in five European countries. Expert Rev Pharmacoecon Outcomes Res 2019; 19: 701–709

[22] Kaminski MF, Anderson J, Valori R et al. Leadership training to improve adenoma detection rate in screening colonoscopy: a randomised trial. Gut 2016; 65: 616–624

[23] Coe SG, Crook JE, Diehl NN et al. An endoscopic quality improvement program improves detection of colorectal adenomas. Am J Gastroenterol 2013; 108: 219–227

[24] Corley DA, Jensen CD, Marks AR. Can we improve adenoma detection rates? A systematic review of intervention studies. Gastrointest Endosc 2011; 74: 656–665

[25] Brenner H, Altenhofen L, Kretschmann J et al. Trends in adenoma detection rates during the first 10 years of the German screening colonoscopy program. Gastroenterology 2015; 149: 356–366

[26] Adler A, Lieberman D, Aminalai A et al. Data quality of the German screening colonoscopy registry. Endoscopy 2013; 45: 813–818