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The New Non-Invasive Test for Colorectal Cancer Screening

Colorectal (bowel) cancer

Colorectal cancer is the second commonest cause of cancer deaths in the UK, yet it is a preventable cancer. Colorectal cancer screening detects pre-malignant (pre-cancerous) polyps which can be easily removed at colonoscopy and early stage cancers which can be cured. A number of non-invasive colorectal cancer screening tests are available. Cologuard is a new test which out-performs the presently available tests.

Traditional colorectal cancer screening tests

The more widely used screening tests are based on detecting microscopic traces of blood in stool samples.

Colorectal cancers and polyps bleed intermittently so can easily be missed with this approach. Cancers and polyps continually shed cells into the colon where they are mixed with the stool.

The Cologuard test is based on exfoliated cell DNA detection.

Cologuard

Cutting-edge stool DNA (sDNA) technology can identify early asymptomatic colorectal cancers and pre-cancerous polyps.




cologuard[®]

STOOL DNA TEST



Cologuard allows you the opportunity to pick up cancer early, when treatments are curative, and to detect pre-cancerous lesions which can be easily removed before a cancer develops. At present, individuals are only eligible for free non-invasive testing through the NHS in the UK from the age of 60-74 using traditional faecal occult blood based screening techniques. Cologuard is recommended for all average risk patients from 50 years of age and above.

Cologuard is non-invasive and easy to use in your own home, requiring no time off to prepare, no dietary restrictions and no changes in medication.

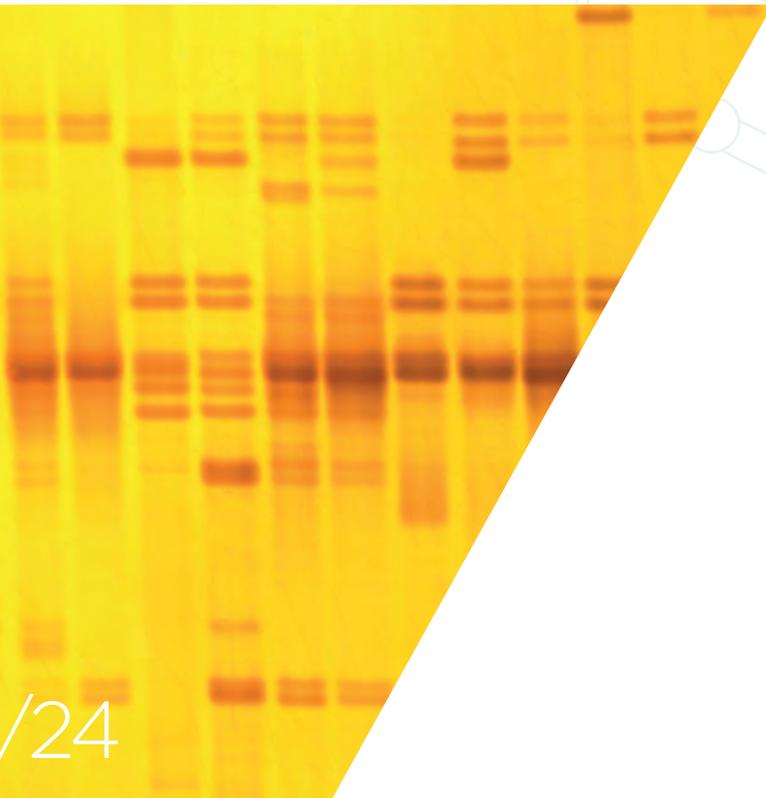
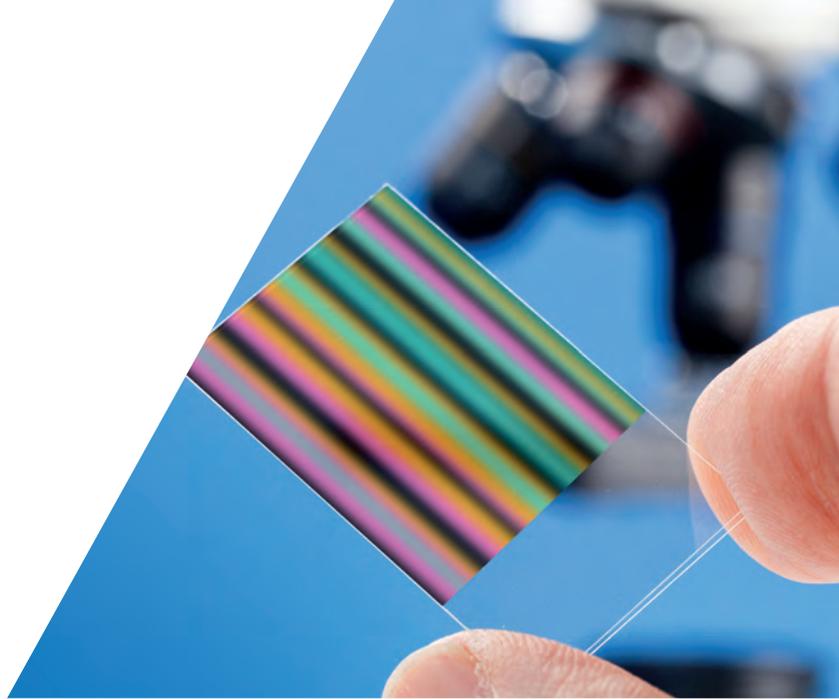
From a simple stool sample, multiple DNA and haemoglobin biomarkers are analysed. Every day the lining of your bowel naturally sheds cells. If you have cancer and/or pre-cancer, abnormal cells are continuously shed into the bowel, along with normal cells. These shed cells are picked up by stool as it passes through your bowel.

Cologuard uses advanced stool DNA technology to find DNA from these abnormal cells and haemoglobin from red blood cells. Cologuard is not a genetic test because it does not provide information on your DNA; Cologuard looks only for altered DNA associated with colorectal cancer and pre-cancerous lesions.

Cologuard utilises a multi-target approach to detect a number of DNA and haemoglobin biomarkers associated with colorectal (bowel) cancer and pre-cancerous polyps to identify individuals who should proceed to colonoscopy.

Eleven biomarkers are targeted and provide the strongest most sensitive and specific non-invasive bowel cancer colorectal cancer screening test.

The benefit of Cologuard was assessed in one of the largest screening trials conducted. Nearly 10,000 patients took part. The study demonstrated that Cologuard was 92.3% sensitive in detecting colorectal cancer, 69.2% sensitive in detecting high-risk pre-cancerous polyps and 42.4% sensitive in detecting low risk polyps. These results exceed the more widely available stool based screening tests (Imperiale T *et al.* Multitarget stool DNA testing for colorectal-cancer screening. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2014;370(4):1987-97).



High Risk Patients

Cologuard has been developed and tested for use in patients without a significant colorectal cancer risk. In higher risk groups, colonoscopy may be the best test, these groups include:

- Individuals with a history of bowel cancer, polyps, or other related cancers
- Those with a family history of bowel cancer
- Those with a condition that places you at high risk for bowel cancer. These include, but are not limited to: Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Familial adenomatous polyposis.

Bespoke Colorectal cancer screening

Depending on your age, past medical history and family history, a number of colorectal cancer screening options are available. To establish the best screening test for your patient, set up a consultation with Dr Andrew Poullis.