



Strategies to Facilitate Colonoscopy Completion

10:50 AM - 12:00 PM

Strategies to Facilitate Colonoscopy Completion



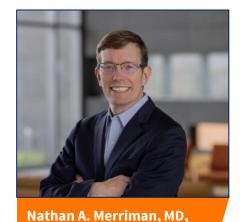
Moderator
Jocelyn Phillips
American Cancer Society



Erin PetersonColon Cancer Coalition



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MDCE

Intermountain Health





Colonoscopy Hesitancy Perceptions of the prep and procedure

ACS NCCRT, 2025

DISCLOSURES

No personal disclosures.

This research was sponsored by an unrestricted grant from Braintree Laboratories, Inc.



BACKGROUND

Building on "2021 Patient Perceptions Regarding Colonoscopy" by Vemulapalli, Lahr, and Rex, which found 71% of patients listed the bowel prep as the worst part of the colonoscopy.

We wanted to:

- Understand the real and perceived barriers to a successful colonoscopy.
- Understand public hesitancy to colonoscopy and bowel prep.

2021 Patient Perceptions Regarding Colonoscopy Experience

Krishna C Vemulapalli ¹, Rachel E Lahr, Douglas K Rex

Affiliations

PMID: 35324481 DOI: 10.1097/MCG.000000000001689

Abstract

Goal: We sought to document patient perceptions in 2021 regarding colonoscopy experience and potential deterrents to repeat colonoscopy.

Background and aim: Bowel preparation has been previously considered by patients to be the worst part of a colonoscopy.

Materials and methods: We conducted a prospective survey of consecutive patients age 18 years and older who had just completed colonoscopy at 2 outpatient endoscopy centers at a tertiary academic hospital. The short survey was conducted in the recovery area. The main outcome measure was patient perceptions of the worst part of their colonoscopy experience and which factor would most deter them from a future colonoscopy.

Results: Four hundred patients completed the survey of 405 approached. Average patient age was 64 years, and 48% were women. Seventy-five percent of patients used low-volume preparations. Bowel preparation was considered the worst part of colonoscopy by 71% of patients. Women were more likely to choose laxatives as the worst part of a colonoscopy. Bowel preparation was chosen most often (55%) as the most likely deterrent to a future colonoscopy. There were minimal differences in responses between those receiving low-volume versus high-volume (4 L) preparations.

Conclusion: Bowel preparation remains the worst part of the colonoscopy experience for patients, and the most likely deterrent to future colonoscopy.

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METHODOLOGY

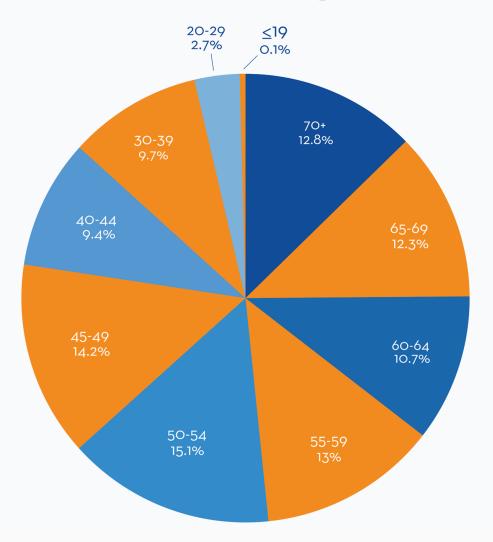
- An online survey was conducted between December 2023 and March 2024
- Inclusion Criteria: All adults (age of majority) living in the United States
- Survey questions were developed through a review of previously published patient surveys and designed to understand the public perception of and the reason behind hesitancy towards colonoscopy screenings
- The survey was face-validated in a smaller cohort of patients and questions were revised before full release
- Convenience sampling was done through Colon Cancer Coalition's social media platforms and emailed to a network of patients, survivors, caregivers, volunteers, and community partners
- A textual analysis was used to analyze the free responses
- Goal: 1000 respondents.

Total Respondents: 1,865



Demographics Total Survey Respondents: 1865

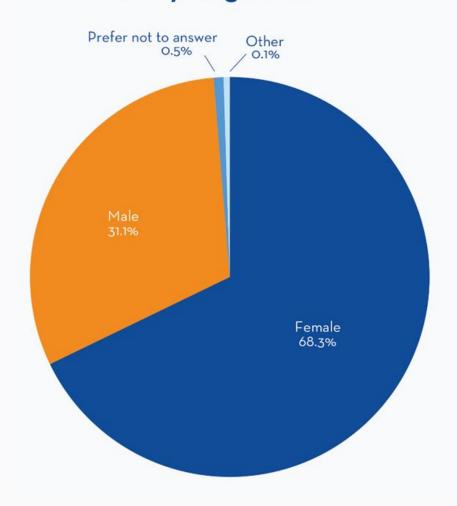
How old are you?



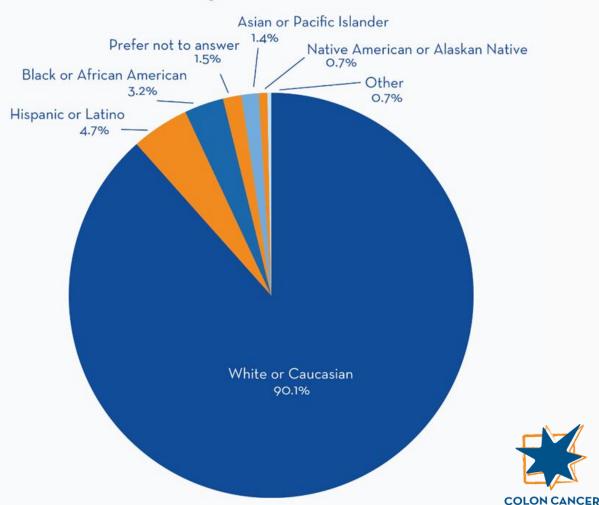


Demographics Total Survey Respondents: 1865

What is your gender?

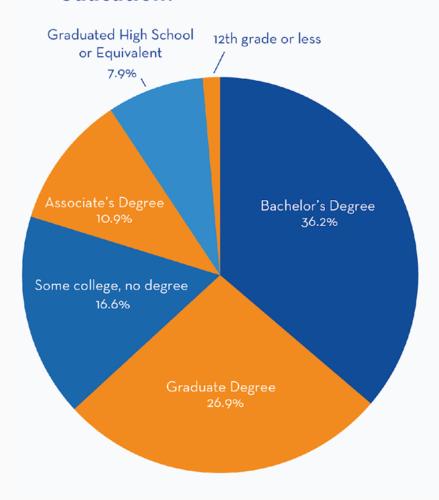


Which of the following best describes you?

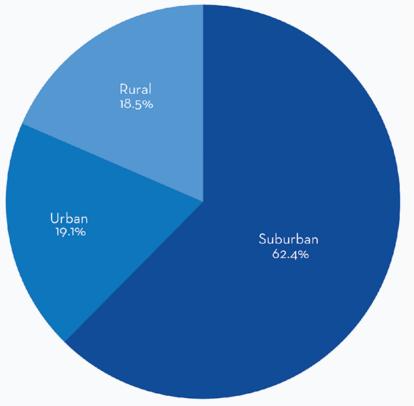


Demographics Total Survey Respondents: 1865

What is your highest level of education?



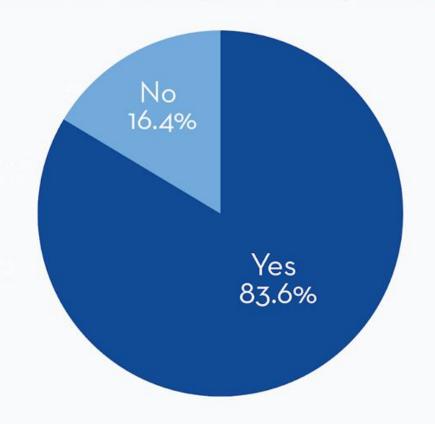
Which best describes the area where you live?

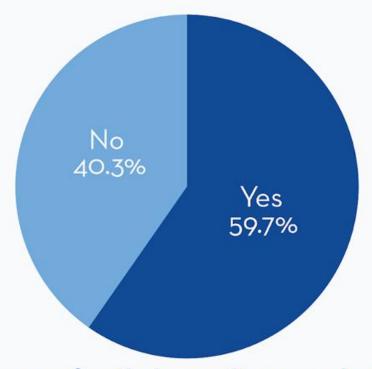




Do you know anyone with CRC?

Do you know anyone who has been diagnosed with colon or rectal (colorectal) cancer?



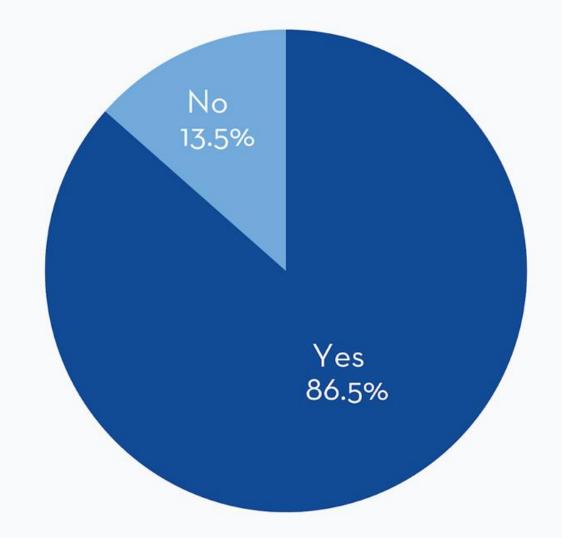


Has anyone in your family been diagnosed with colon or rectal (colorectal) cancer?



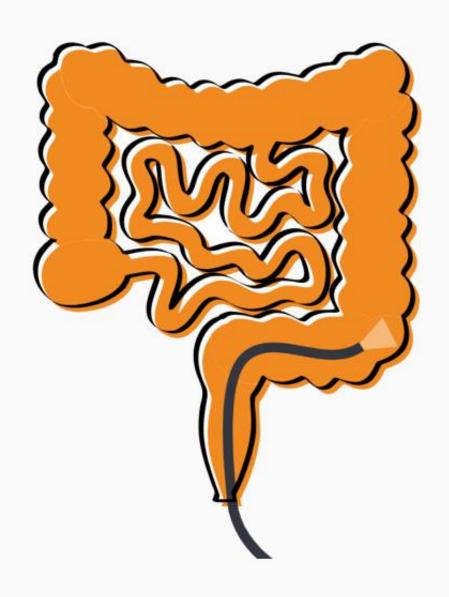
Have you had a colonoscopy?

Yes = 1613No = 252





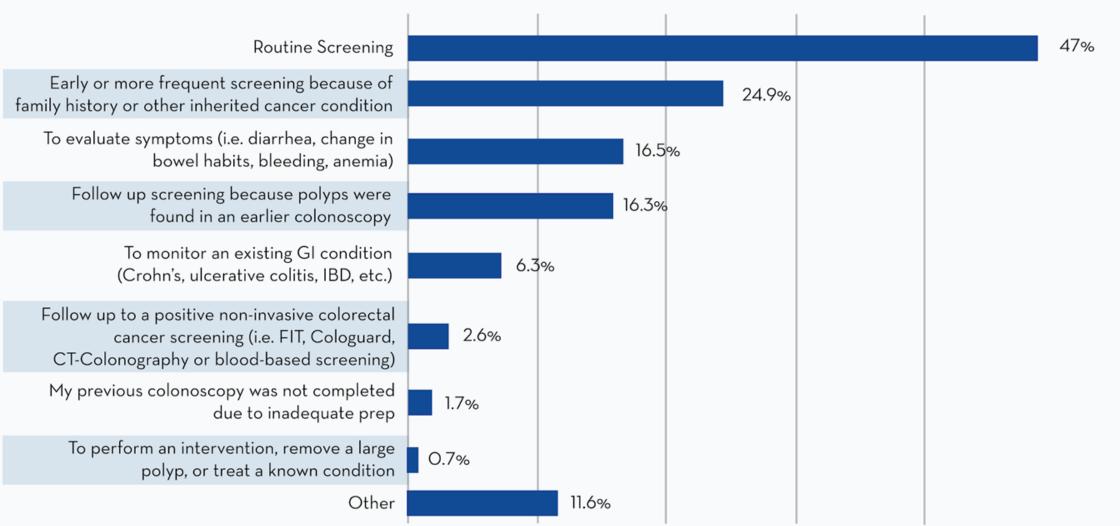
COLONOSCOPY HESITANCY





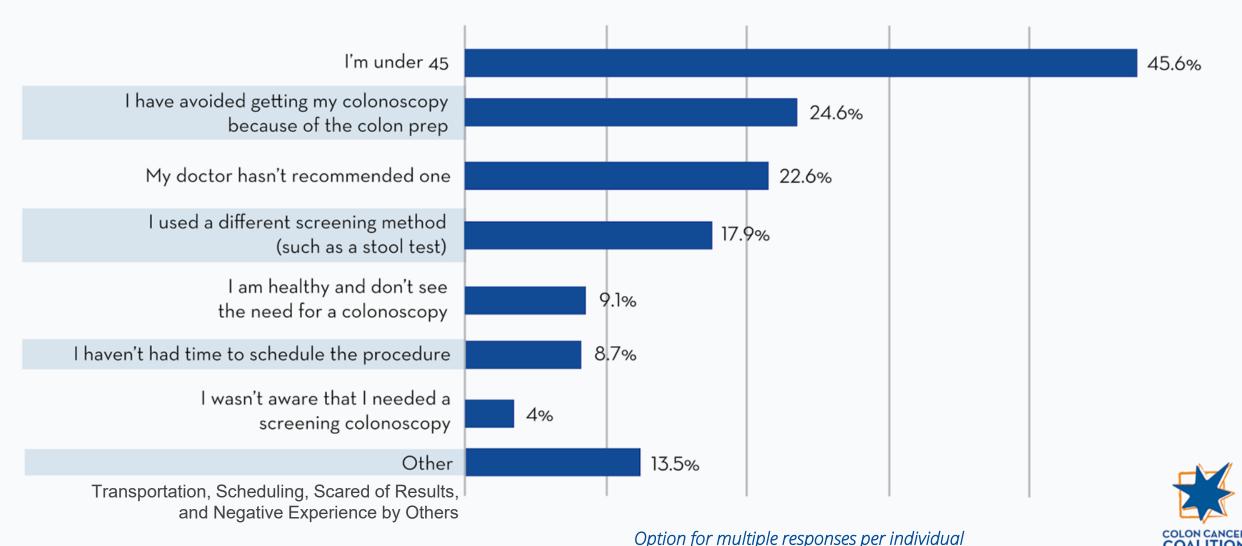
Colonoscopy: YES

What was the purpose of your last colonoscopy?



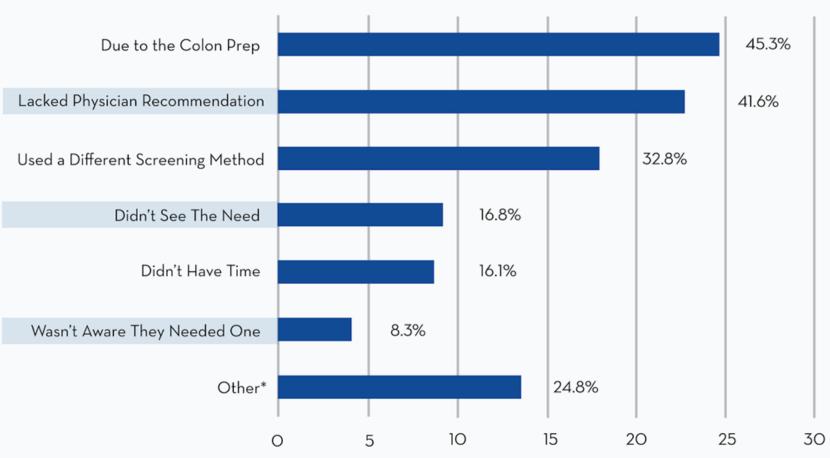


Why haven't you had a colonoscopy?



REASON SUBJECTS OVER 45 HAD NOT GOTTEN A COLONOSCOPY



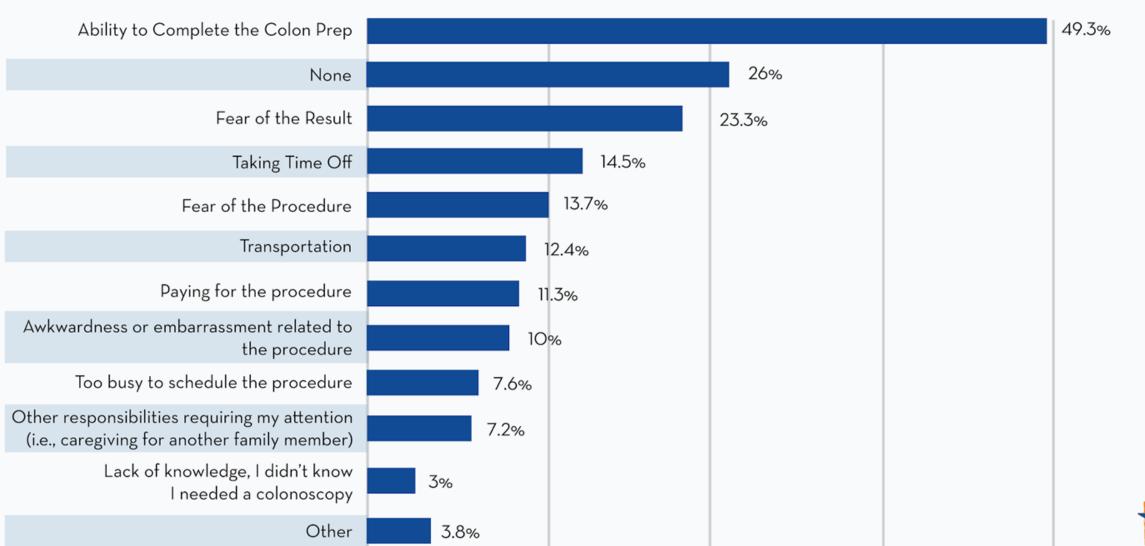


^{*} Other includes: Transportation, Scheduling, Scared of Results, and Negative Experience by Others



Colonoscopy: YES

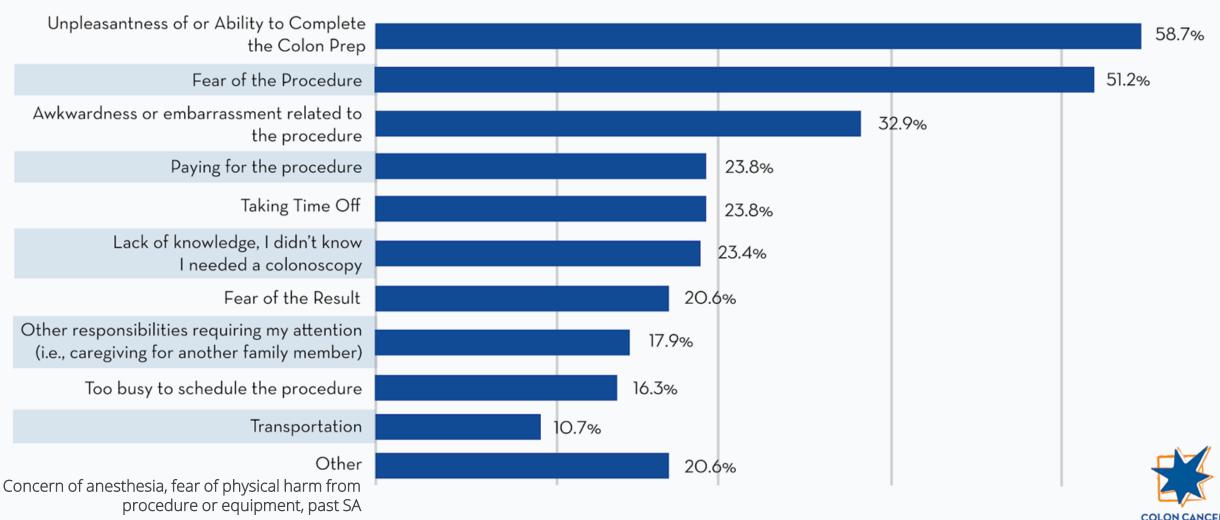
What were the 3 greatest challenges for you to complete your colonoscopy? (Respondents' Top Three Choices Summarized)





Colonoscopy: NO

Considering your current situation, what are the top three challenges you face in completing a colonoscopy?



Colonoscopy: YES

Across demographics, colonoscopy hesitancy is strongly influenced by perceptions related to the tolerability of the colon prep.

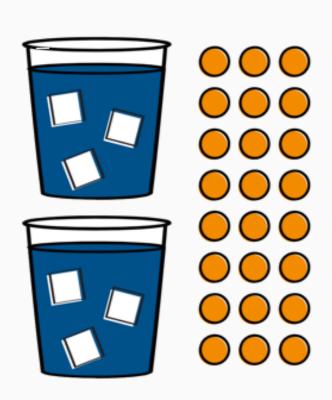
What was the worst part of your colonoscopy experience? (n=2706)												
Demographic Variable	Awkwardness of the procedure	Discomfort during prep	Fear of the procedure	Ingesting the prep	Limited Eating	Making Appointment	Pain after colonoscopy	Pain during colonoscopy	Cost	Uncertainty of results	Other	P=Value*
Gender												
- Female	4.0%	14.3%	7.2%	37.6%	11.2%	1.8%	1.4%	1.3%	5.0%	12.2%	4.0%	0.88
- Male	3.5%	10.0%	5.8%	39.6%	12.8%	2.7%	1.8%	1.3%	4.5%	12.5%	5.4%	0.27
Age Group												
- Under 45	4.6%	14.2%	7.9%	28.2%	12.6%	2.5%	1.2%	1.1%	9.1%	15.4%	3.2%	p<.001
- 45-54	3.4%	13.0%	7.6%	36.4%	12.5%	2.5%	1.6%	1.1%	5.1%	12.5%	4.1%	0.96
- 55-64	4.3%	12.5%	6.1%	39.5%	11.1%	1.7%	2.0%	1.8%	3.8%	12.2%	5.2%	0.73
- 65+	3.5%	12.8%	5.6%	47.3%	10.3%	1.8%	1.0%	1.2%	2.1%	9.3%	5.2%	p<.001
Education Level												
- 12th Grade or Less	16.2%	10.8%	13.5%	32.4%	5.4%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	10.8%	2.7%	0.01
- Associate's Degree	4.6%	13.0%	6.2%	38.4%	11.1%	1.9%	2.5%	0.9%	6.2%	11.8%	3.4%	0.87
- Bachelor's Degree	3.3%	13.8%	6.4%	37.0%	12.3%	2.2%	0.9%	1.0%	6.1%	11.4%	5.4%	0.43
- Graduate Degree or Higher	3.5%	12.8%	7.6%	39.2%	12.4%	2.7%	1.0%	1.4%	3.9%	11.1%	4.2%	0.79
- Graduated High School or Equivalent	3.3%	13.6%	7.0%	38.8%	13.1%	0.5%	3.7%	2.3%	3.3%	12.1%	2.3%	0.10
- Some College, No Degree	4.4%	12.0%	6.1%	38.9%	9.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.5%	3.8%	16.0%	4.6%	0.37
Residential Area												
- Rural	4.7%	13.6%	5.7%	41.2%	11.9%	1.5%	1.3%	1.9%	4.2%	10.8%	3.2%	0.69
- Suburban	3.3%	13.9%	6.2%	38.6%	12.4%	2.2%	1.7%	1.0%	4.5%	11.7%	4.4%	0.81
- Urban	4.7%	11.4%	9.9%	34.5%	9.9%	1.7%	0.8%	1.5%	5.3%	14.6%	5.7%	0.03
- Unknown	16.7%	20.8%	16.7%	12.5%	8.3%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	0.01
Total (n)	105	354	184	1005	311	53	39	35	122	319	118	
											* Chi-Sau	are Statistic



THE PREP



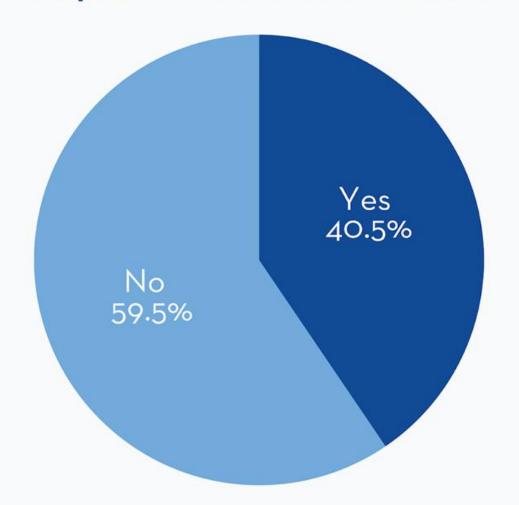


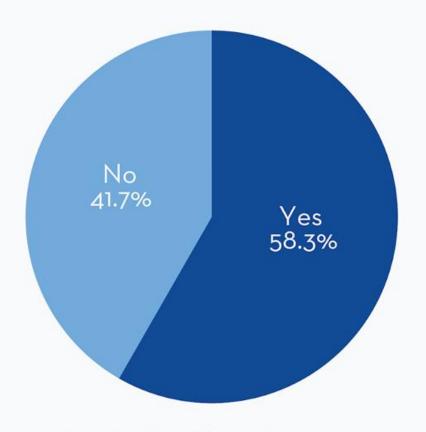




Colonoscopy: NO

Do your feelings about colonoscopy prep affect your decision to have a colonoscopy?



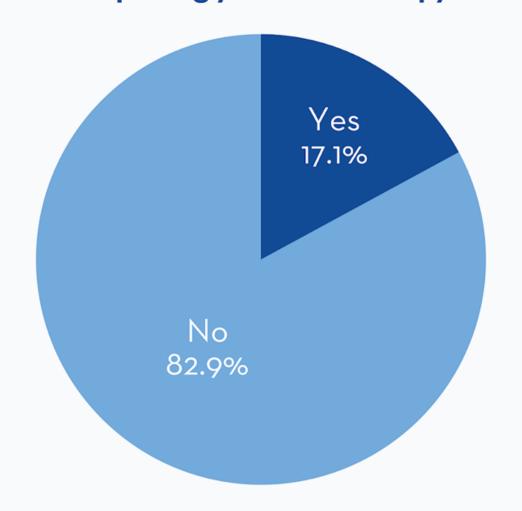


Do you anticipate that the colon prep process will be a challenge to completing a colonoscopy?



Colonoscopy: YES

Was the colon prep process a barrier to completing your colonoscopy?





Colonoscopy: NO

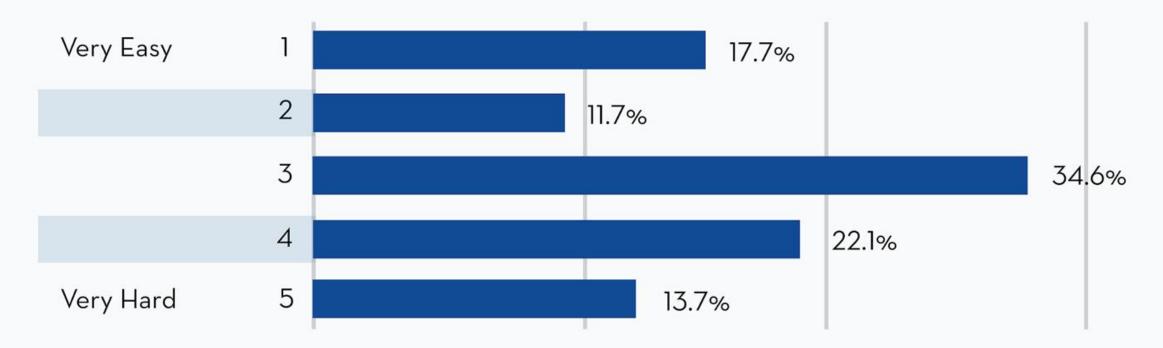
What is your perception about the required colonoscopy prep?





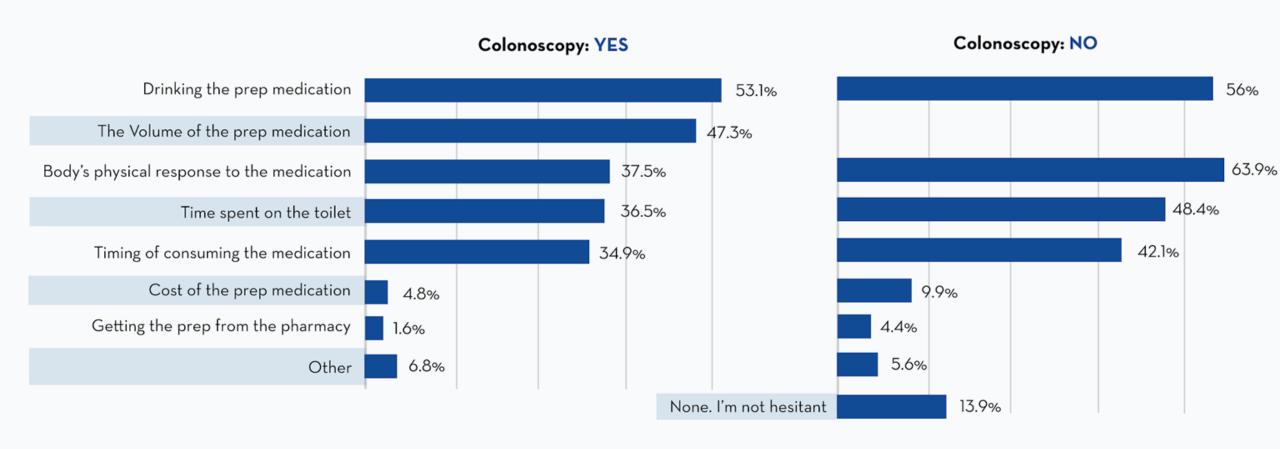
Colonoscopy: YES

How was your experience completing the colon prep for your most recent colonoscopy?





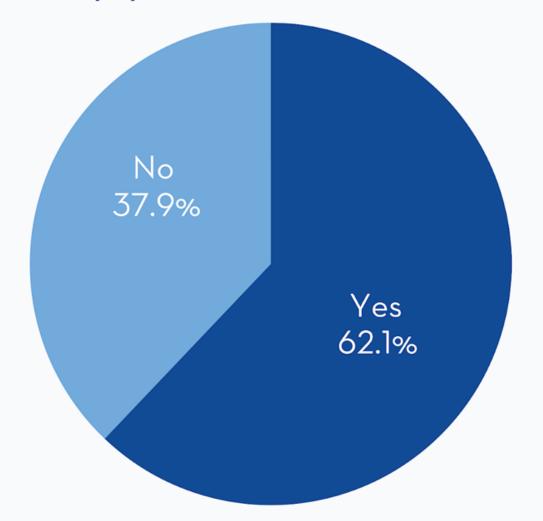
What about the prep were/are you most hesitant about?

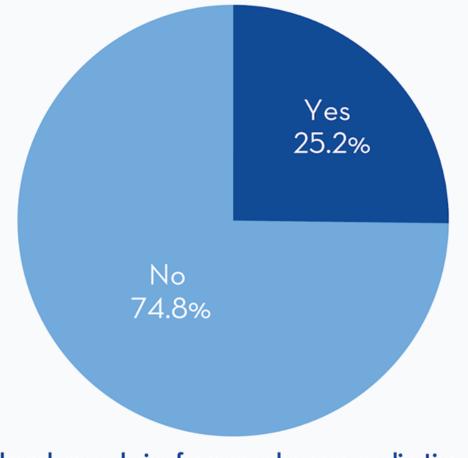




Colonoscopy: YES

Do you know there are many different options for bowel prep medication?









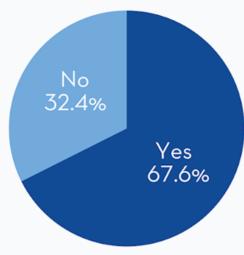
SCREENING OPTIONS



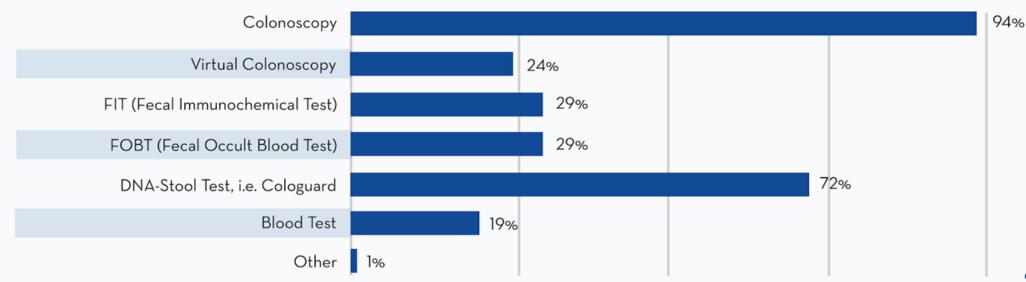


Colonoscopy: YES

Are you aware that there are many options for colorectal cancer screening?

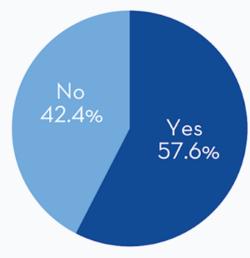


Select any of these that you have heard about.

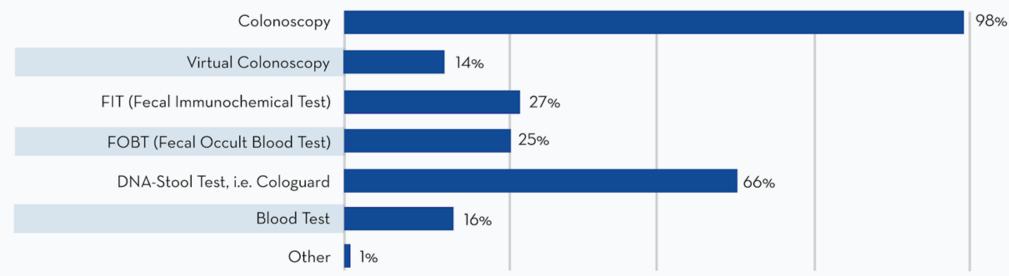


Colonoscopy: NO

Are you aware that there are many options for colorectal cancer screening?



Select any of these that you have heard about.





Colonoscopy Yes Free Answer Themes

Is there anything you would like to share about your experience with colonoscopy?

- Prep is the hardest part due to taste and volume
- Colonoscopies saved my life / saves lives
- Recommended screening age should be lower than 45
- The best part is the nap and food afterwards



Colonoscopy Yes Bowel Prep Themes

In your own words, describe the bowel prep experience.

- The prep is too much to drink in a short amount of time
- The prep is unpleasant, but worth it
- Completing the prep is a mental challenge. Creating a comforting space in the restroom helps.



Colonoscopy Yes Bowel Prep Themes

Please share additional thoughts about your colon prep experience.

- There needs to be better options for the prep that taste better and have less volume.
- Doctors should inform the patient about different prep options.
- Cost is a barrier to different prep options
- Participants will opt out of a colonoscopy due to the prep side effects
- The SuTab pills are difficult to swallow after a while.



Colonoscopy No Free Answer Themes

Please share additional thoughts about colonoscopy and colon prep.

- Although prep needs to be done, it is daunting due to the stories that people share.
- The recommended screening age should be lower than 45.
- Colonoscopies are a way for the medical system to make more money.
- Cologuard is easy, effective, and less invasive.



STANDOUT COMMENTS

"The last one
(colonoscopy) I
had, I took pills
instead (of) the
drink in
preparation and it
was sooooo much
better. Made me
not hate having the
next one."

Debbie, late 60s, white female, bachelor's degree.

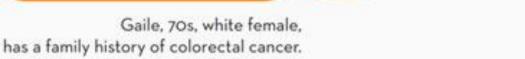
"Fear of the unknown was the greatest barrier for scheduling my initial colonoscopy. I was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer after having my first routine colonoscopy. I had zero symptoms! I wish I would have scheduled my colonoscopy before age 60!"

Shelly, early 60s, white female, associate's degree.

"So far my doctor is satisfied with [stool-based screening], so I'll continue with that unless I develop questionable symptoms. Then I'll do whatever my doctor recommends."

"I had no clue there were other prep options. (It) actually makes me mad that my wife didn't knowshe went through hell for her prep and had no idea there was another way."

Chad, late 40s, white male, bachelor's degree. Has avoided a colonoscopy due to the colon prep.





KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Despite recommended screening guidelines, bowel prep hesitancy and lack of physician recommendation emerged as the two most important barriers to colonoscopy screening.
- Much anxiety around colonoscopy is driven by perceptions around the taste, volume, and/or side effects of the prep medication, regardless of the patient population.
- Most surveyed patients view the bowel prep as the worst part of the colonoscopy experience.
- Other potential barriers such as fear of the procedure, costs incurred, and inconvenience should not be ignored in patient navigation for CRC screening.
- Increasing primary care awareness and education of screening recommendations as well as improving access to additional bowel prep options, may reduce resistance among patients.



THANK YOU TO THE STUDY TEAM

Study Authors:

Douglas K Rex, MD, Indiana University School of Medicine Audrey Calderwood, MD, MS, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Daniel Halberg, PhD, Sebela Pharmaceuticals Chris Evans, Colon Cancer Coalition Erin Peterson, Colon Cancer Coalition

Data Analysis:

Casey Le, MPH, CHES



THANK YOU



ColonCancerCoalition.org

Erin Peterson

Sr. Director of Mission & Partnerships

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- Facebook.com/ColonCancerCoalition
- ColonCancerCoalition
- in Colon Cancer Coalition



Thank You

A system-wide approach to CRC screening and colonoscopy completion using digital health and Al

Ashish Atreja, MD, MPH "App Doctor"

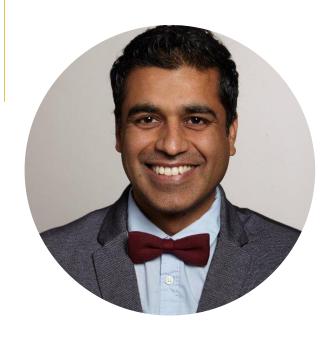
President, GenServe.AI
Former CIO and CDHO, UC
Davis Health



Disclosures

- Consulting: Astrazeneca, JnJ
- **Stocks:** Commure, Inc., Hippocratic.AI (scientific advisor)
- Board position:
 - Chair, NODE. Health, Association of Digital Medicine (unpaid)
 - Chair, GenServe.AI (unpaid)
- NIH funding (active):
 - AGA- Fecal Microbiome Transplant Registry
 - Developing and Testing a Digital Toolkit to Improve Colorectal Cancer Screening

A bit about the shared journey!



Ashish Atreja, MD, MPH

5th Career Life

- 1. Medical School and Public Health training
- 2. GI fellow, Informaticist and clinical research— Cleveland Clinic
- 3. Gl, Chief Innovation Officer-Mount Sinai Called as an "App Doctor", Digital Health Intrapreneur
- 4. CIO and CDHO, UC Davis Health
- 5. Al Transformation at Scale- GenServe.Al

Our Burning Platform: Safety and Productivity Paradox

Patients are asking for 24/7 on demand always on care

Clinicians are burned out

Care delivery is inefficient and margins are shrinking

Digital or Al + Health= Exponential Improvement in Care Delivery

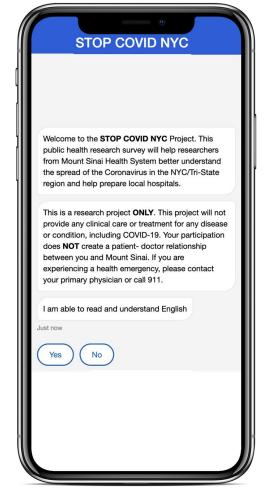


End users. clinicians, and payers should understand the differences between these varied products given their important roles in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of health and disease.

Automating Patient Interactions: 1 Million Mount Sinai Patients outreached with BOT, 55,000 patients enrolled (100 personnel x1.5 years)

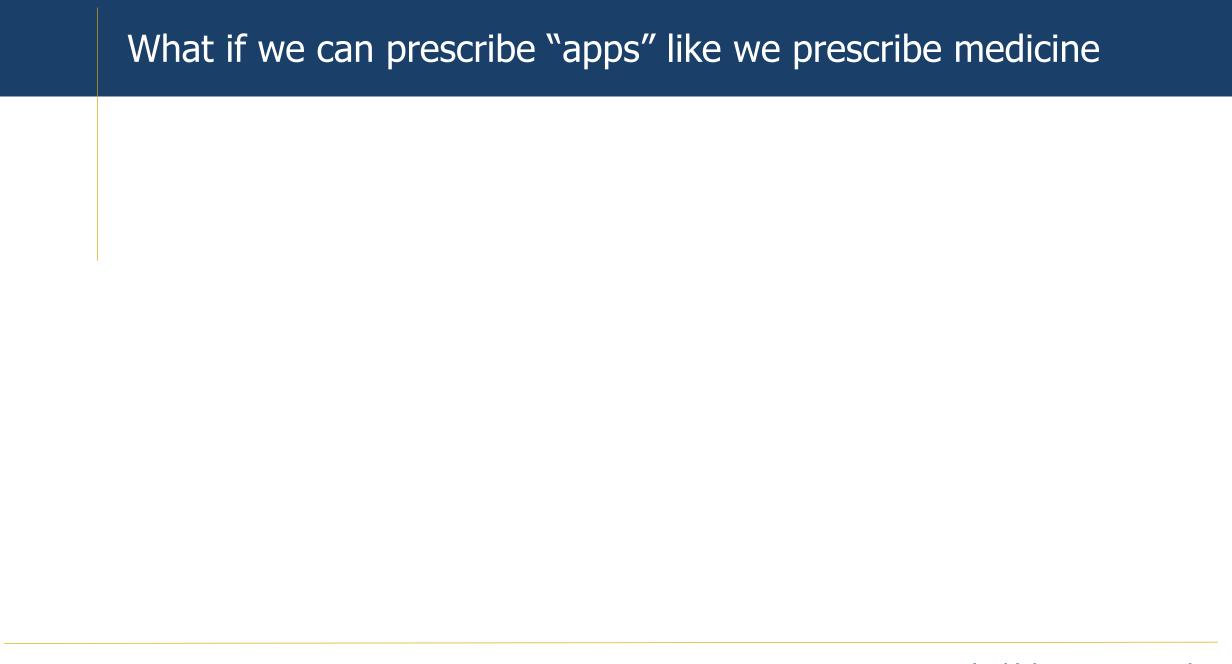
- EHR- based identification and outreach in year 2020
- 15,000 enrolled in first week, 55,000 in 4 weeks
- Bot for e-consent
- Self-enroll through text to enroll program



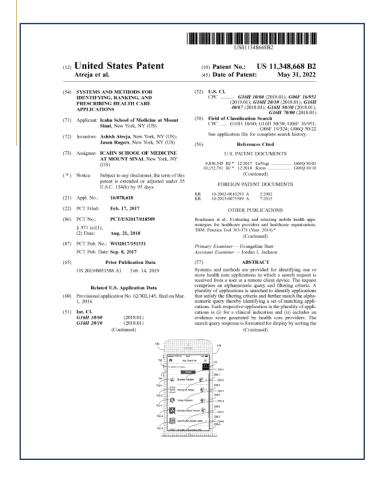




https://www.mountsinai.org/about/newsroom/2020/mount-sinailaunches-covid19-app-to-track-spread-of-virus-across-newyork-city-pr

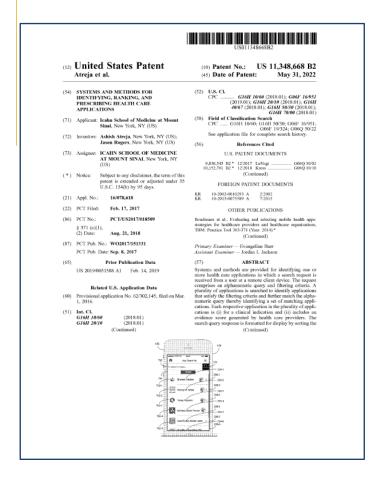


What if we can prescribe "apps" like we prescribe medicine



Patent: Systems and Methods for Identifying, Ranking and Prescribing Health Care Applications

What if we can prescribe "apps" like we prescribe medicine



Patent: Systems and Methods for Identifying, Ranking and Prescribing Health Care Applications

Leakage in CRC Screening and Colonoscopy Completion

- 1. Percentage of patients with missed or delayed appointment (~6%, 15%)
- 2. Percentage of patients with poor preparation (15-25%)
- 3. Percentage of patients with ER after procedures (2-8%)
- 4. Patients not coming back at recommended intervals (30-70%)
- 5. Patients positive for FIT/Cologuard not scheduled colonoscopy
- 6. Patients ordered colonoscopy but not scheduled
- 7. Patients not offered any CRC surveillance testing

Leakage in CRC Screening and Colonoscopy Completion

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Impacts patient safety, patient outcome and health system revenue

Current State-Example of Dense Patient Instructions

Instructions for Patients: Split-dosing PEG Bowel Preparation	
2 weeks before colonoscopy	 You must speak with your primary care physician or a specialist if you: Are taking blood thinners or antiplatelet agents such as warfarin (Coumadin*), enoxaparin (Lovenox*), fondaparinux (Arixtra*), clopidogrel (Plavix*), prasugrel (Effient*), anagrelide (Agrylin*), cilostazol (Pletal*), pentoxifylline (Trental*), dipyridamole (Persantine*), dipyridamole with aspirin (Aggrenox*), or over-the-counter medications such as aspirin or other anti-inflammatory drugs such as Motrin* (ibuprofen), Advil* (ibuprofen), or Aleve* (naproxen) Have diabetes and take insulin, you may need to have your insulin adjusted the day before and the day of the procedure; please bring your diabetes medication with you to take after the procedure, if needed It is important to continue to take all other prescribed drugs
5 days before colonoscopy	 Do not take bulk-forming agents such as Metamucil™ or Citrucel® Do not take iron-containing preparations, such as a multivitamin with iron Arrange for a driver to take you home after the procedure Purchase your prescription 2-5 days before the procedure. Do not mix the solution until the day before the procedure
The day before colonoscopy	 Instructions for preparing the solution are provided on the medication bottle. The solution should be mixed no sooner than 48 hours prior to its usage by adding tap water to the gallon level mark and then shaking or stirring the solution until it is well mixed. Do not add sugar or flavorings containing sugar to the solution. Refrigerating the solution, adding lemon juice or Crystal Light, and rapidly drinking 8-oz portions (instead of sipping) help make the solution more palatable Do not eat solid foods for 24 hours before the colonoscopy appointment Do not consume red-colored drinks, Jell-O*, or popsicles It is essential to drink at least 8 oz of clear liquids (1 cup) every hour while awake to avoid dehydration. Clear liquids include apple or white grape juice, broth, coffee or tea (without milk or creamer), clear carbonated beverages such as ginger ale or lemon-lime soda, Gatorade* or other sports drinks (not red), Kool-Aid* or other flavored drinks (not red), plain Jell-O or other gelatins (not red), popsicles (not red), and water At 6 PM the evening before the procedure, begin drinking 8 oz (240 mL, 1 cup) of the solution every 15 to 20 minutes until half of the solution is ingested. Continue drinking clear liquids until you go to bed
The day of colonoscopy	 If you have an afternoon appointment, begin drinking the remaining solution at 6 AM on the morning of the procedure, about 8 ounces every 10 minutes until finished, at approximately 8 AM. If your procedure is scheduled in the early morning, you will need to get up in the night to finish the second half of the solution at least 2 or 3 hours before the colonoscopy appointment or complete it all on the evening before the procedure You should drink at least 8 oz of clear liquids every hour (no solids, alcohol, or red-colored drinks) until 2 hours before the colonoscopy appointment. You may take your morning medications After the colonoscopy, you are encouraged to drink fluids to prevent dehydration. You can eat your usual diet and can resume most of your medications (unless instructed differently by your doctor) the same day

Activation

Appointment in Smartphone

AGA-Prep Instructions

From facility:

replying 2

0 0

If you need to change or cancel your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible by

You must speak with your physician if you are taking blood thinners or

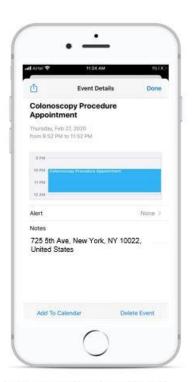
anti-platelet agents AND/OR if you

have diabetes and insulin which may have to be adjusted. Make sure to continue all other prescribed

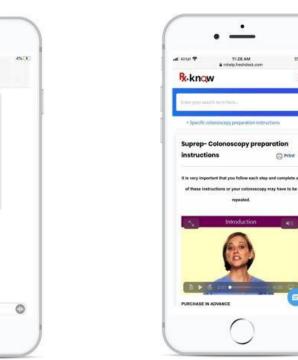
Please find the full set of instructions at the link below.







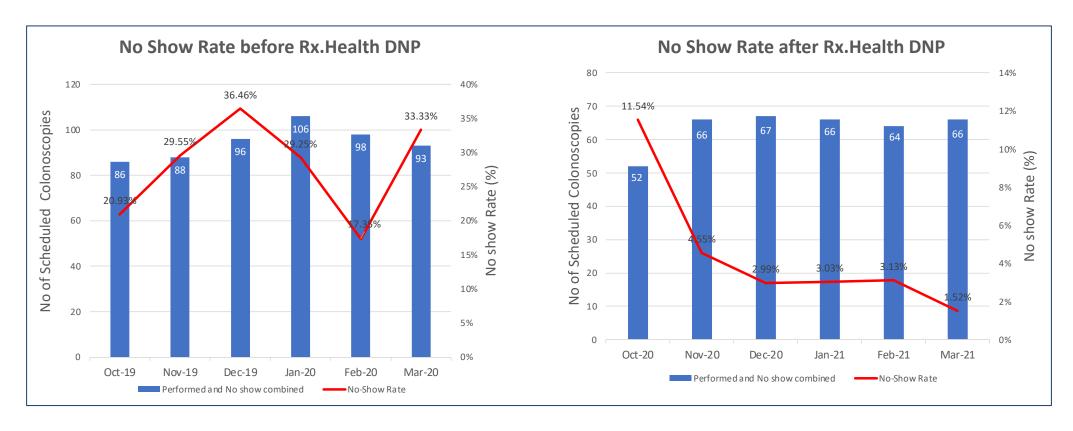
Message sent 1 day later with preparation instructions for colonoscopy procedure



Message with video link to learn how to prepare for colonoscopy procedure

Message sent immediately after the prescription is made with appointment confirmation and calendar link

Pre-Post comparison of No-Show Rates at NYC H+H



Avg No-show rate before AGA Rx.Health (Oct 19-March 20): **27.81%** Avg No-show rate after AGA Rx.Health (Oct 20- March 21) : **4.46%**

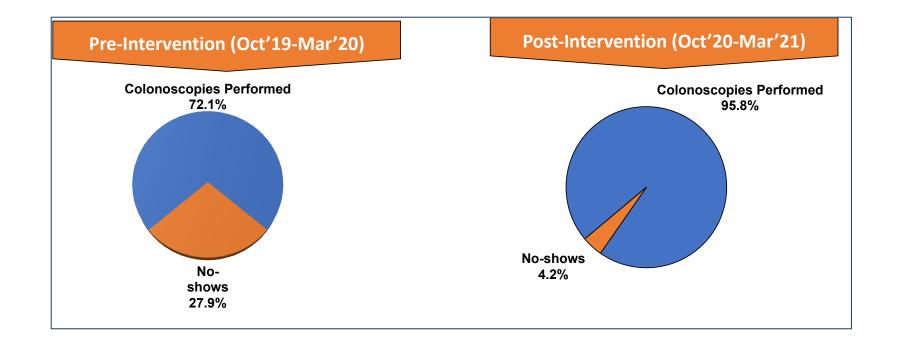
% Reduction in no-shows: 83.9%

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UCNOW- Cologuard program

Today 9:32 AM

This is UC Davis Health, following up with TEST-Patient_01/04 Viramontes04 about a 3 question survey regarding an order your doctor has placed.

https:// links.staging.digitaldavis.ucdavis.edu/FDHx

Text STOP to opt-out. Msg&Data rates may apply.

Delivered

essage





Hello, UC Davis Health would like to follow up with you regarding a recent order placed by your doctor.

Can you please verify your birth date?



mm / dd

CONFIRM



You have previously been ordered a colonoscopy by your doctor to screen for colorectal cancer, but due to lengthy wait times, we are offering an easy alternative.

Cologuard is an FDA approved stool-based test that can detect colorectal polyps and earlystage cancer like colonoscopy can.



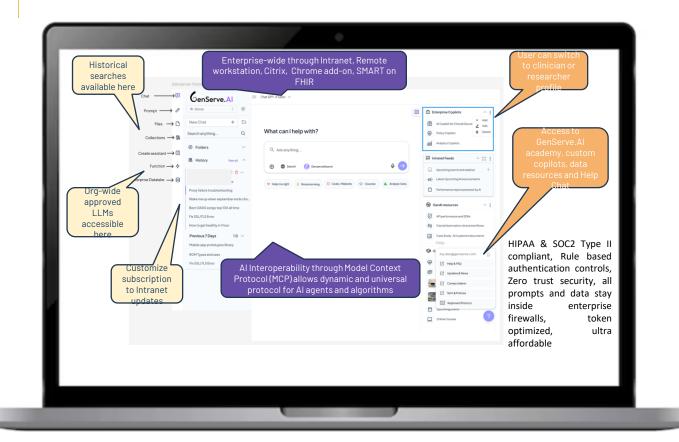
Would you be willing to complete 3 questions to determine your eligibility for this screening method?

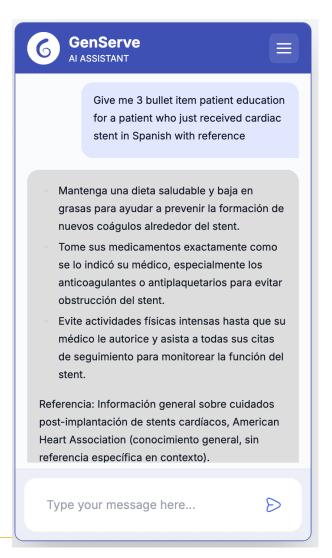


AI development and validation resources in partnership with NSF Applied AI Center



1. Making AI Visible and Actionable to Employees through "human-in-the loop" workflows for CRC screening





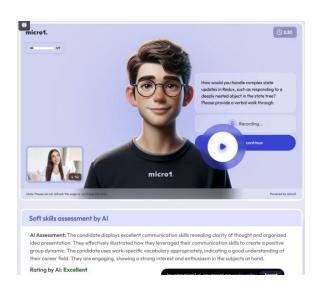
57 57

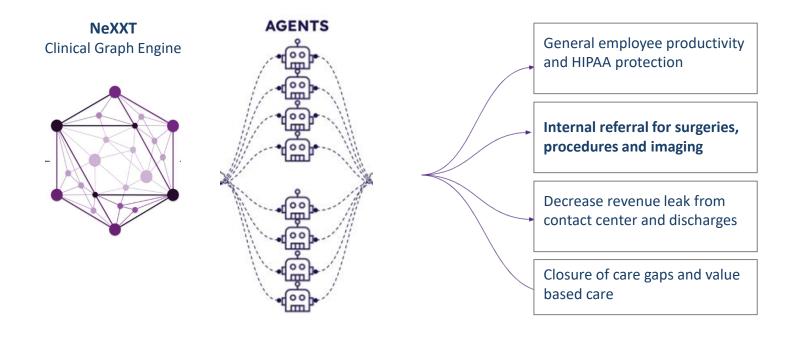
2. System-wide Approach towards *CRC Screening with automation*GenServe.Al

Enable human transformation agents

2.Advance to Clinical Agentic
Modules with Increased Autonomy

3. Deliver Enterprise-wide Impact from Top use-cases



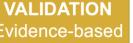


Humans are the ultimate Transformation Agents

Creating the New Science, Together









TRANSFORMATION Implementation-Science

Evidence-Based Digital Transformation

Atreja@gmail.com

Partner@genserve.Al

How can we collaborate with ACS NCCRT and Partners to bring Al Transformation for CRC Screening?





Thank You





Questions