



## Journal of Public Health Research



eISSN 2279-9036

<https://www.jphres.org/>

**Publisher's Disclaimer.** E-publishing ahead of print is increasingly important for the rapid dissemination of science. The **Journal of Public Health Research** is, therefore, E-publishing PDF files of an early version of manuscripts that undergone a regular peer review and have been accepted for publication, but have not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading processes, which may lead to differences between this version and the final one.

The final version of the manuscript will then appear on a regular issue of the journal. E-publishing of this PDF file has been approved by the authors.

J Public Health Res 2021 [Online ahead of print]

*To cite this Article:*

Sazali MF, Rahim SSA, Hayati F, et al. **Colorectal cancer and potential predictors of never screened for faecal occult blood test: a narrative review.** doi: 10.4081/jphr.2021.2377



© the Author(s), 2021

Licensee [PAGEPress](#), Italy

## **Colorectal cancer and potential predictors of never screened for faecal occult blood test: a narrative review**

Mohd Fazeli Sazali <sup>1</sup>, Syed Sharizman Syed Abdul Rahim<sup>1</sup>, Firdaus Hayati<sup>2</sup>, Mohd Nazri Mohd Daud<sup>1</sup>, Richard Avoi<sup>1</sup>, Azizan Osman<sup>1</sup>, Azman Atil<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Aklil Abd Rahim<sup>1</sup>, Mohd Faizal Madrim<sup>1</sup>, Khalid Mokti<sup>1</sup>, Abdul Rahman Ramdzan<sup>1</sup>, Zulkhairul Naim Sidek Ahmad<sup>1</sup>, Andee Dzulkarnaen Zakaria<sup>3</sup>, Mohd Firdaus Che Ani<sup>4</sup>, Aini Fahriza Ibrahim<sup>5</sup>, Zahir Izuan Azhar<sup>6</sup>, Mohammad Saffree Jeffree<sup>1</sup>, Mohd Rohaizat Hassan<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Community and Family Medicine Department, Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

<sup>2</sup>Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu

<sup>3</sup>Department of General Surgery, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia, School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kota Bharu, Kelantan

<sup>4</sup>Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Selangor

<sup>5</sup>Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kota Samarahan, Sarawak

<sup>6</sup>Department of Public Health Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi MARA

<sup>7</sup>Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Correspondence:** Syed Sharizman Syed Abdul Rahim, Community and Family Medicine Department, Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Email: [syedsharizman@ums.edu.my](mailto:syedsharizman@ums.edu.my)

### **Significance for public health**

This study highlights the public health challenge in early screening for colorectal cancer (CRC). The prevalence of never screened for faecal occult blood test is relatively high. This review dissects the issue and further discuss on the predictors, which could guide policymakers in developing strategy to improve CRC screening uptake.

## **Abstract**

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a major public health threat. Therefore, CRC screening uptake has been a focus with the established precancerous lesion and the strong association of early detection with staging and survival of the disease. However, CRC screening is relatively low in many countries. This article briefly discussed the current situation of CRC, recommendations, and current uptake of CRC screening in various countries. Besides that, this article also highlights the potential factors that help to predict the CRC screening uptake worldwide. Identification of those factors could guide policymakers to develop an effective strategy to improve the CRC screening uptake and ultimately improve the health outcome of the population.

**Key words:** Colorectal cancer, screening uptake, predictors, barriers for screening.

## **Introduction**

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is one of the most common cancers in Asia and worldwide with an estimation of 10.9% of cancer death among men and 9.5% among women [1]. Mortality and morbidity associated with CRC are highly preventable with early diagnosis and treatment. Most of the CRC cases appear to develop from benign and precancerous polyps in which the incidence and mortality can be reduced by performing early screening through the removal of adenomatous polyps and sessile serrated polyps [2]. Therefore, it is vital to ensure that the uptake of CRC screening reaches the optimal level to reduce the overall CRC incidence and mortality.

Previous studies reported that various factors influence the public's decision to avoid FOBT screening including sociodemographic and socioeconomic background [3], [4], health access factor [5], [6], preventive behaviour [7], as well as knowledge and attitude regarding CRC [8]–[12]. This review will briefly discuss the current situation of CRC, recommendations for CRC screening, and how various factors could affect the uptake of CRC screening.

## **Global Situation of Colorectal Cancer (CRC)**

In 2018, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) estimated that 18.1 million new cases and 9.6 million deaths were related to CRC. CRC was ranked as the third most common malignancy worldwide, and the third leading cause of cancer detected in men and women. Moreover, CRC is also second-highest cancer