

Methods: Four electronic databases (Medline, Cochrane library, Healthstar and Embase) and bibliographies of related papers were searched for published English language studies; experts and pharmaceutical companies were consulted for additional information. A key endocrinology journal was hand searched for relevant studies. The outcome for the review was quality of life measures. Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) were selected. The quality of studies was assessed using standard methods for evaluating internal validity. Applying inclusion criteria, data extraction and quality assessment were undertaken independently by two reviewers, with any differences resolved through discussion.

Results: 17 RCTs met the inclusion criteria of the review. These were of variable quality, with most trials receiving Jadad quality scores of 2/5 or 3/5. Quality of life was reported using a variety of measurement scales. Seven studies provide data that could be meta-analysed. Evidence suggests that growth hormone may improve quality of life, although most change scores are modest and few are statistically

[Metadata, citation and similar papers at core.ac.uk](#)

Discussion/Conclusions: Interpretation of results from generic quality of life measures is difficult in terms of meaningfulness to growth hormone deficient adults. Further well-designed RCTs are needed, that use validated outcome measures specific to growth hormone deficiency and are stratified for relevant subgroups. Research is also required to develop methods to determine the meaning of change in quality of life scores. *Poster session 'PHA – HTAs of pharmaceuticals': Wednesday, June 12*

Occurrence variations and appropriateness of use of colonoscopy for early colorectal cancer case-finding in asymptomatic patients: a European multicenter study

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Background/Objectives: The effectiveness of colonoscopy when used for screening for colorectal cancer (CRC) in asymptomatic individuals has not to date been formally assessed. This study examined the occurrence, variations and appropriateness of use of colonoscopy for early CRC case-finding in individual patients internationally.

Methods: In consecutive patients referred for colonoscopy in 21 centers (11 European countries) in 2001, indication for colonoscopy and its appropriateness according to criteria developed by a European panel using the RAND method (www.epage.ch), endoscopic diagnosis, histology and demographic data were prospectively collected. Use of colonoscopy for case-finding (screening) in asymptomatic patients only (i.e. no previous history of a polyp or CRC, no recent positive barium enema or sigmoidoscopy).

Results: 551/4,890 (11%) colonoscopies were performed for early CRC case-finding in asymptomatic patients (mean age 53.9 ± 13.0; 48% male). The proportion of colonoscopies performed for CRC screening varied by up to 10-fold between centers internationally (2–20%) and within the same country (4–20%). Variations between centers and countries were smaller (2.5 fold; 15%–38%) when indications for CRC screening were combined with relatively vague indications for colonoscopy ('abdominal pain' and 'change in bowel habits'). On average, colonoscopy for screening for CRC in asymptomatic patients was appropriate in 21% of cases (varying from 7% to 53% between centers), uncertain in 59% and inappropriate in 20%. In patients at low CRC risk, the indication was almost never appropriate. Four cancer cases (1%) were discovered, while polyps were found in 29% of these 551 patients (17% of polyps > 10 mm).

Discussion/Conclusions: In about 1/10 of nearly 5,000 colonoscopies, the indication was that of CRC screening in an asymptomatic patient. Wide variation between centers in the occurrence and appropriateness of screening colonoscopy was observed. One-fifth of screening colonoscopies only were deemed appropriate because the EPAGE panel considered that colonoscopy was appropriate only in patients at clearly-increased risk for CRC. SNF No. 3200-057244.99 / EPAGE collaborative study.

Oral session 'VI – Appropriateness': Monday, June 10, 11–12.30 a.m.

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