

IMPROVING COLORECTAL CANCER CARE FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS PATIENTS

A CONSENSUS STATEMENT

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the respiratory, digestive, endocrine and reproductive systems. Treatment advances allow many patients to live into middle age. But longer lives bring a higher risk of colorectal cancer, the third deadliest cancer in the United States.

The risk is five-to-10 times higher for cystic fibrosis patients compared to the general population. For patients who received a lung or other solid organ transplant, the risk is 25-to-30 times higher.

The Cystic Fibrosis Engagement Network and its members recommend the following steps to reduce colorectal cancer among people with cystic fibrosis.



IMPROVE SCREENING GUIDANCE

Colorectal cancer in cystic fibrosis patients develops 20 to 30 years earlier compared to the general population. The best way to prevent this silent disease is through routine colonoscopies. Lowering the recommended age for the first colorectal cancer screening for cystic fibrosis patients can encourage early diagnosis and increase survival rates.



BOOST RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Scientists don't fully understand why cystic fibrosis patients face an increased risk of colorectal cancer. Research can uncover more about this connection and allow the health care system to better support cystic fibrosis patients with colorectal cancer.



HEIGHTEN AWARENESS & EDUCATION

Colorectal cancer screenings can involve colonoscopy, FIT stool-based testing and blood tests. It's important to make cystic fibrosis patients and providers aware of the available options, so they can choose optimal testing and treatment for their safety needs, comorbidities and quality of life.



INCREASE ACCESS

People living with cystic fibrosis already experience routine testing as part of the extensive monitoring the condition requires. Removing barriers that limit cystic fibrosis patients from accessing colorectal cancer screening is imperative for better care.

Patients deserve access to proactive health care. The groups below stand united in support of increased screenings and innovation to improve the lives of people living with cystic fibrosis.

Alliance for Patient Access • Boomer Esiason Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Engagement Network • Miles for Cystic Fibrosis
Cystic Fibrosis Research Institute • Emily's Entourage
Rock CF Foundation • The Bonnell Foundation


Cystic Fibrosis Engagement Network
www.engagecf.org