

Are Residents of Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) undergoing recommended cancer screening?

Results of Studio PASSI 2006



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Background

- Public health organizations in Italy emphasize the importance of providing routine screening for cervical, breast cancer, and colon cancer
- Current national guidelines guidelines:
 - Pap test every 3 years for women 25-64 years
 - Mammography every 2 years for women 50-69 years mammography every 2 years
 - For both men and women ≥50 years, fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) every 2 years

Objectives

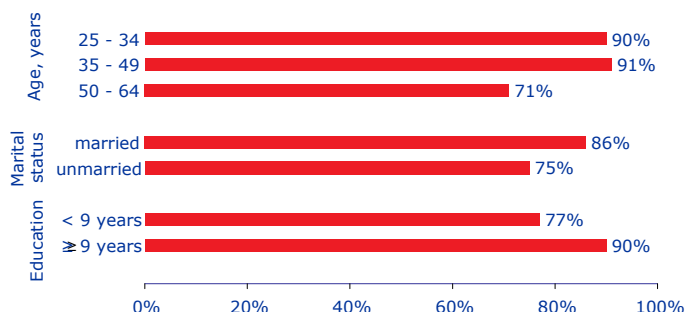
- Estimate current levels of adherence to guidelines in Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) region for cervical, breast and colon cancer screening

Methods

- Data obtained from Studio PASSI 2006
- Cross-sectional telephone survey conducted between October and November 2006 by local health staff
- All 6 local health units (LHU) represented
- Respondents: 451 women 25-69 years, 248 women 50-69 years, and 457 women and men ≥50 years
- Definitions of adherence to guidelines:
 - Cervical cancer screening:* Pap test within the past 3 years
 - Breast cancer screening:* mammogram within the past 2 years
 - Colon cancer screening:* FOBT within the past 2 years

Results 1: Pap test

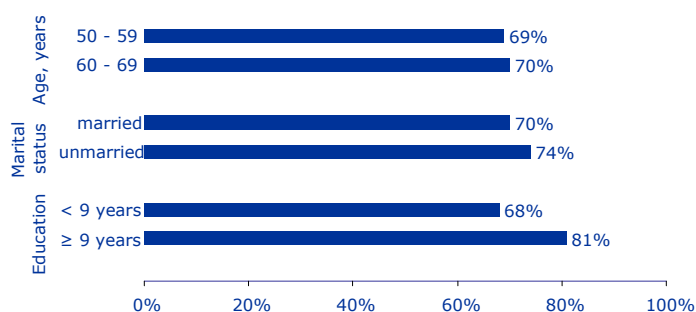
Adherence: 82% (range 76-89%)



Adherence to guidelines was significantly higher among women who were younger, married, and had higher educational levels

Results 2: Mammography

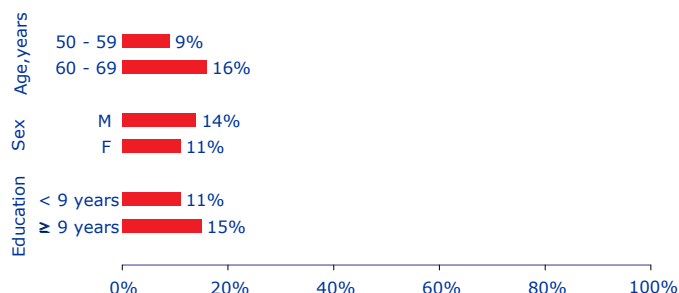
Adherence: 69% (range 59-77%)



Adherence to guidelines did not differ significantly by age, marital status, or education

Results 3: FOBT

Adherence: 12% (range 3-20%)



Adherence to guidelines did not differ significantly by age, marital status, or education

Limitations

- PASSI relies on self-reported data
- Self-reports can result in overestimates or underestimates compared with other data sources such as health care records

Conclusions

- In FVG, where Pap testing has been routinely promoted since 1998, adherence is high
- The mammography program, which was begun in 2005, requires further promotional activities
- Fecal occult blood testing, for which the program remains in the planning stage, is rare