

CONTENTS

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
Executive Summary.* ***. *	1
Evidence on Effectiveness.....	2
Potential Cost-Effectiveness of CRC Screening in the Elderly.....	3
Implications for Medicare.....	5
1. The Rationale for Colorectal Cancer Screening.....	7
Introduction.....	7
Technologies for Colorectal Cancer Screening.....	8
Recommendations for Colorectal Cancer Screening in the Elderly.....	10
The United States.....	10
Other Countries.....	12
Understanding the Differences in Recommendations.....	12
2. The Effectiveness of Colorectal Cancer Screening.....0.....	13
Issues in Measuring Effectiveness.....	13
Evidence on Effectiveness of Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT).....	14
Evidence on the Effectiveness of Sigmoidoscopy.....	18
Effectiveness Issues Specific to the Elderly.....	20
3. The Cost-Effectiveness of Colorectal Cancer Screening in the Elderly.. ..	23
Introduction.....	23
Screening, Follow Up, and Surveillance Strategies.....	23
Structure and Assumptions of The Cost-Effectiveness Analysis.....	25
Results.....	26
Distribution of Effects Across Time and Individuals.....	30
Sensitivity Analysis.....	30
Comparison With Other CRC Cost-Effectiveness Analyses.....	32
Discussion.....	33
Implications for Medicare.....	33
<i>Appendix</i>	
A. OTA Advisory Panel.....	35
B. Acknowledgments.....	36
C. Basis for Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Colorectal Cancer Screening.....	37
Measurement of Effects.....	37
Natural History of CRC.....	37
Accuracy of Screening.....	39
Medical Risks of Screening.....	44
Years of Life Gained From Screening.....	45
Measurement of Costs.....	46
References.....	49

CONTENTS-continued

Boxes

<i>Boxes</i>	<i>Page</i>
A. Staging Colorectal Cancers.....	7
B. Polyps and Cancer.....	9

Charts

<i>Charts</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. Annual Colorectal Cancer Incidence Rates, United States.....	1
2. Annual Cost of Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Screening, Followup, and Surveillance	34

Tables

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. Stage at Detection of Colorectal Cancers	8
2. Recommendations for Screening for Colorectal Cancer in the Elderly	11
3. Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) Controlled Clinical Trials	15-16
4. Age-Specific Polyp Prevalence: Autopsy Studies.....	21
5. Effects and Costs of CRC Screening in the Elderly	25
6. Summary of Assumptions for Cost-Effectiveness Analysis.....	26
7. Cost-Effectiveness of Colorectal Cancer in the 1989 U.S. 65-Year-Old Population Under Assumptions Unfavorable to Screening	27
8. Impact of Surveillance Schedule on the Cost-Effectiveness of CRC Screening in the 1989 U.S. 65-Year-Old Population	28
9. Cost-Effectiveness of CRC Screening Under Differing Assumptions About the Cost of Treating Early and Late CRC.....	31
10. Sensitivity of Cost-Effectiveness Results to Faster Polyp/Cancer Progression Time	31
11. Effect of Lower FOBT Sensitivity on Cost-Effectiveness of CRC Screening.....	31
12. Assumptions Underlying Estimates of the Annual National Costs of CRC Screening, Followup, and Surveillance in the Elderly	33
c-1. FOBT Sensitivity and Specificity	42
c-2. Distribution of Polyps by Location From Autopsy Studies of U.S. and Foreign Populations	43
c-3. Distribution of Polyps from Studies of Symptomatic Patients	44
c-4. Selected Screening, Followup, and Surveillance Charges for Colorectal Cancer.....	46
c-5. Average Charges Made to Medicare for Treatment During the Initial, Continuing, and Terminal Phases of CRC (1984 dollars)	47
C-6. Estimates of the Cost of Treating Early and Late Cancers in 1988 Dollars	48