

Family history questionnaire ups genetic counseling for CRC

June 23 2017



(HealthDay)—For patients undergoing outpatient colonoscopy, a family

history questionnaire (FHQ) sent by mail is associated with an increase in available family history and referral for genetic counseling, according to a study published online May 29 in the *Journal of Digestive Diseases*.

Koen Kessels, M.D., Ph.D., from the University Medical Center in Utrecht, Netherlands, and colleagues sent a FHQ to [patients](#) who were due to undergo outpatient colonoscopy in 2013. Additional characteristics and referral for genetic evaluation of patients were retrieved from [electronic medical records](#) (EMRs). Data were included for 6,163 patients who underwent colonoscopy from 2010 to 2013.

The researchers found that 3.7 percent of the 1,421 patients undergoing colonoscopy in 2013 consulted a geneticist, compared with 1.6 percent of the 4,742 patients undergoing colonoscopy from 2010 to 2012 (P family history was not recorded in the EMR; 32.8 percent of these had family history obtained by a returned FHQ. Overall, 60.5 percent of patients referred for genetic counseling in 2013 were referred on the basis of family history; 9.9 percent were referred based on returned FHQ.

"Screening for hereditary CRC in a population undergoing outpatient colonoscopy with a FHQ sent by mail resulted in an increase of an available family history and [genetic counseling](#)," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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Citation: Family history questionnaire ups genetic counseling for CRC (2017, June 23) retrieved 20 March 2024 from
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