TITLE: Genetic Testing for Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colorectal Cancer: Diagnostic Accuracy and Reliability

DATE: 30 September 2008

RESEARCH QUESTION:

What is the diagnostic accuracy and reliability of performing genetic testing for the detection of hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer?

METHODS:

We contacted ECRI's hotline service to request information on genetic testing for hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer. The ECRI document is attached, and the systematic review and observational study references and abstracts they identified are included below.

Supplemental searches for reports from Canadian health technology assessment agencies were performed, along with European sources including University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE).

RESULTS:

ECRI provided the following document, which is a guide to the available evidence on the topic with context about the evidence provided by ECRI. It is based solely on a review of the article abstracts, not an analysis of full published articles.

Hotline response:


Disclaimer: The Health Technology Inquiry Service (HTIS) is an information service for those involved in planning and providing health care in Canada. HTIS responses are based on a limited literature search and are not comprehensive, systematic reviews. The intent is to provide a list of sources of the best evidence on the topic that CADTH could identify using all reasonable efforts within the time allowed. HTIS responses should be considered along with other types of information and health care considerations. The information included in this response is not intended to replace professional medical advice, nor should it be construed as a recommendation for or against the use of a particular health technology. Readers are also cautioned that a lack of good quality evidence does not necessarily mean a lack of effectiveness particularly in the case of new and emerging health technologies, for which little information can be found, but which may in future prove to be effective. While CADTH has taken care in the preparation of the report to ensure that its contents are accurate, complete and up to date, CADTH does not make any guarantee to that effect. CADTH is not liable for any loss or damages resulting from use of the information in the report.

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References and abstracts from systematic reviews and observational studies identified by ECRI are included below. Some additional information contained in the ECRI report is included in the appendix. One systematic review and nine observational studies were identified on genetic testing for hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer. One health technology assessment (HTA) was identified in the supplemental search. No randomized controlled trials (RCTs) were identified.

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, HTAs, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by RCTs and observational studies.

Health technology assessments


Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials
No literature identified

Observational studies


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Clinical practice guidelines


Observational studies


Review articles


