Occult Blood Detection Testing for Non-Colorectal Cancer Related Medical Conditions: Clinical Effectiveness
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**Funding:** CADTH receives funding from Canada’s federal, provincial, and territorial governments, with the exception of Quebec.
Research Questions

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of the fecal immunochemical test in detecting medical conditions other than colorectal cancer where occult blood detection is needed?
2. What is the clinical effectiveness of the guaiac fecal blood occult test in detecting medical conditions other than colorectal cancer where occult blood detection is needed?

Key Findings

No relevant literature was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of fecal immunochemical testing or guaiac fecal blood occult testing in medical conditions other than colorectal cancer.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, the Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2014 and April 8, 2019. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Patients being screened for medical conditions where occult blood detection is necessary, including colorectal cancer</th>
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| Intervention | Q1: Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)  
Q2: Guaiac Fecal Occult Blood Test (gFOBT) |
| Comparators | Q1: Guaiac Fecal Occult Blood Test (gFOBT)  
Q2: Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) |
| Outcomes | Q1-2: Clinical effectiveness (i.e. detection of medical conditions where occult blood detection is necessary other than colorectal cancer, e.g., gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding, ulcer bleeding) |
| Study Designs | Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies |
Results

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies.

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of fecal immunochemical testing or guaiac fecal occult blood testing for medical conditions where occult blood detection is necessary.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.
Appendix — Further Information

Previous CADTH Reports


Non-Randomized Studies

No Comparator


Pediatric Population


Diagnostic Test Accuracy – Alternative Comparator


Additional References