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"Barriers to CRC screening are not well understood. We sought to compare barriers to CRC screening reported by primary care physicians (PCPs) and by average-risk adults, and to examine characteristics of average-risk adults who identified lack of provider recommendation as a major barrier to CRC screening," researchers in the United States reported.

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2005 OCT 29 - (NewsRx.com) -- Researchers recommended the need for continued efforts to educate the public about colorectal cancer (CRC) and the important role of cancer screening.

"Barriers to CRC screening are not well understood. We sought to compare barriers to CRC screening reported by primary care physicians (PCPs) and by average-risk adults, and to examine characteristics of average-risk adults who identified lack of provider recommendation as a major barrier to CRC screening," researchers in the United States reported.

"This was a comparative study using data from the 1999-2000 Survey of Colorectal Cancer Screening Practices and the 2000 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). We recruited nationally representative samples of PCPs (n=1235) from the SCCSP and average-risk adults (n=6497) from the NHIS. We measured barriers to CRC screening identified by PCPs and average-risk adults who were not current with screening," explained C.N. Klabunde and colleagues, National Cancer Institute.

"Both PCPs and average-risk adults identified lack of patient awareness and physician recommendation as key barriers to obtaining CRC screening. PCPs also frequently cited patient embarrassment/ anxiety about testing and test cost/lack of insurance coverage, but few adults identified these as major barriers. Of adults not current with testing, those who had visited a doctor in the past year or had health insurance were more likely to report lack of physician recommendation as the main reason they were not up-to-date compared with their counterparts with no doctor visit or health insurance."

The researchers concluded, "Only 10% of adults not current with testing and who had a doctor visit in the past year reported receiving a screening recommendation. A need exists for continued efforts to educate the public about CRC and the important role of screening in preventing this disease. Practice-based strategies to systematically prompt health care providers to discuss CRC screening with eligible patients also are required."

Klabunde and colleagues published their study in *Medical Care* (Barriers to colorectal cancer screening: a comparison of

reports from primary care physicians and average-risk adults. Med Care, 2005;43(9):939-944).

For additional information, contact C.N. Klabunde, National Cancer Institute, Applied Research Program, Health Service & Economics Branch, Division Cancer Control & Population Science, Execut Plaza N Room 4005, 6130 Execut Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20892, USA.

Publisher contact information for the journal Medical Care is: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 530 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-3621, USA.

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