

**Title: Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices in Colorectal Cancer Screening in the Philippines**

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**Introduction:** Colorectal cancer (CRC) has the third highest incidence among all malignancies affecting Filipinos following breast and lung cancers. CRC is a preventable disease and is highly treatable in the early stages. Currently, there is a paucity in literature that is focused on the knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of Filipinos regarding CRC screening. To the knowledge of the authors, this is the first study in the Philippines that describes this.

**Methods:** This is a cross-sectional study that validated and subsequently utilized a 52-item Filipino questionnaire that evaluated participant knowledge on colorectal cancer, willingness to undergo CRC screening, and perceived benefits and barriers to fecal occult blood test (FOBT) and colonoscopy. The study enrolled household heads more than 20 years of age residing in both urban and rural communities in the Philippines.

**Results:** The questionnaire's validity and internal consistency were established in a pilot study of 30 respondents. A total of 288 respondents were then enrolled to the main study group with a median age of 54.0. Knowledge scores for prognosis and utility of CRC screening were modest (6.3/12, and 8.4/20, respectively). Perceived benefit scores to FOBT and colonoscopy were high (9.9/12, and 13.9/16, respectively). Median scores to barriers to FOBT and colonoscopy were intermediate (22.5/36 and 35.8/60, respectively). Notably, a vast majority (86.1%) were willing to participate in CRC screening programs initiated by the government, and 46.9% agreed to undergo screening tests even as out-of-pocket expense.

**Conclusion:** The UP-PGH CRC KAP Questionnaire as well as the Filipino translation of the Rawl Questionnaire are reliable and valid tools to extensively assess the knowledge on CRC and willingness to undergo screening, as well as the benefits of and barriers to FOBT and colonoscopy among Filipinos. Findings of this study can aid in directed educational campaigns and awareness programs to increase knowledge about CRC and its screening with the overall goal of improving CRC outcomes in the country.