Understanding of test risks was greater for colonoscopy than CTC: 95.7% understood risks of colonoscopy vs 86.9% for CTC (odds ratio = 1.88 95% CI: 1.71–2.07, p < 0.0001). Test benefits were also better understood for colonoscopy than for CTC: 98.2% understood colonoscopy benefits vs. 93.6% for CTC (OR=1.67 95% CI: 1.52–1.84 p < 0.0001). Just over one-quarter found CTC more uncomfortable than expected (25.7%), more than for colonoscopy (20.8%; OR = 1.34 95% CI: 0.93–1.22, p = 0.35). More patients understood their colonoscopy result (97.0%) than CTC (90.5%, OR=2.19 95% CI: 1.99–2.41, p < 0.0001).

Direct CTC-related complications were rare (n = 16; 0.5%) although a further 20 (0.6%) suffered complications from subsequent procedures provoked by CTC. Colonoscopy complication rates were similar (n = 779; 1.0%).

Conclusion Although CTC is generally well-tolerated, it is more frequently judged unexpectedly uncomfortable than colonoscopy. Similarly, while overall understanding of test risks, benefits and results is high, rates are lower than for colonoscopy. Post-procedural discomfort and complication rates are similar between both tests. Clear communication of the risks, benefits, procedural experience and results of CTC is required in the BCSP.

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

REFERENCE


Disclosure of Interest None Declared.