Online Appendix 1

These questions are to help you figure out which things are most important to you when thinking about what kind of screening test to have for colon cancer.

**Colon Cancer**
Colon cancer is the third leading cause of death related to cancer.

Colon cancers start out as small growths in the colon called polyps.

Sometimes these polyps can turn into cancer.

Removing the polyps can prevent cancer.

**Screening Tests**
There are 5 colon screening tests:

1) Hemoccult testing
2) Sigmoidoscopy
3) Colonoscopy
4) CT colonography
5) Colon capsule endoscopy

**Hemoccult Testing**
Hemoccult testing is a chemical test of stool smeared on special cards to see if there is blood in the stool.

Blood in the stool sometimes means there are colon polyps or cancer.

If the cards show that there is blood in the stool, you should have a second test to find out if you have polyps or cancer.

**Colonoscopy and Sigmoidoscopy**
Colonoscopy and sigmoidoscopy are similar.

With colonoscopy the doctor looks at the entire colon.

With sigmoidoscopy a doctor passes a tube with a light and a camera to look through only the lower part of the colon.
Colonoscopy and Sigmoidoscopy
Air is pushed into the colon to open it up during these tests. This can cause crampy discomfort or even pain. Medication for comfort is given during colonoscopy and most people sleep through the test. No medication is given for sigmoidoscopy since it only takes about 10 minutes.

CT Colonography
CT colonography is a CAT scan or a special X-Ray test. A technician inserts a small tube just into the rectum to put air into the colon and then the CAT scan is done. Air in the colon can cause cramping but the test takes only 15 minutes so no medications for comfort are given. The test uses less radiation than typical CAT scan tests so it is unlikely to cause any problems from radiation. Polyps cannot be removed during this test. So if the test finds one or more polyps you may need to have a colonoscopy to remove them.

Colon Capsule Endoscopy
Colon capsule endoscopy is a new test that will soon be available. A pill with a light and a camera is swallowed so there is no tube in the rectum and no discomfort. The pill moves through the intestines into the colon and takes many pictures. Underneath your clothing you wear a small box on a belt and wires attached to your chest for 12 hours. You can do normal activities while you are wearing the wires. Polyps cannot be removed during this test. So if the test finds one or more polyps you may need to have a colonoscopy to remove them.

Preparing for a Test
Preparing for a test means you need to clean your colon before the test. Hemoccult: No preparation needed.
**Sigmoidoscopy:** You need to take laxative pills the night before the test and you need to give yourself an enema on the morning of the test.

**Colonoscopy, CT colonography, Colon capsule:** On the day before the test, you can only have liquids, no food. In the late afternoon before the test you must drink a large bottle of salty liquid which will give you diarrhea. You will need to be near a bathroom for the entire evening and make many trips there as the liquid flushes out your colon.

**Test Risks**

Most tests have risks. The benefits of these tests outweigh the risks because more people get colon cancers than have serious problems from these tests.

**Hemoccult:** no risks.

**Colonoscopy:** bleeding, infection, a tear in the colon requiring surgery, serious low blood pressure or breathing problems from medications all occur in less than 1 in 1000 patients.

**CT colonography:** a tear in the colon requiring surgery occurs in 1 in 10,000 patients.

**Colon capsule:** the capsule gets stuck and needs endoscopy or surgery to remove it in far less than 1 in 1000 patients.

**How good is each test at finding polyps to prevent cancer?**

All tests may miss some polyps, but some tests are better at finding polyps and preventing cancer than others.

**Hemoccult:** This test is the least effective, but still can prevent some colon cancers if colonoscopy is done in people with positive tests.

**Sigmoidoscopy:** This test is better at finding polyps than the hemoccult test, but it can miss polyps especially in the part of the colon that is not seen.

**Colonoscopy:** This test is the best at finding small and flat polyps and is excellent for finding polyps of all sizes. Polyps that are hidden behind a fold can be missed by colonoscopy.

**CT colonography:** This test is excellent at finding polyps especially larger polyps. CT colonography can find polyps that are hidden behind a fold, but may miss small or flat polyps.

**Colon capsule:** This test is also excellent at finding polyps of all sizes but not quite as good as colonoscopy or CT colonography.
Baseline Questionnaire

Age: ______________

Gender
1. Male
2. Female

Marital status
1. Single, never married
2. Married / Partner
3. Widow
4. Separated / Divorced

Are you Hispanic/ latino/ latina?
1. Yes
2. No

Which of the following race do you consider yourself to be?
1. White
2. Black or African American
3. Asian or Pacific Islander
4. American Indian or Alaska Native
5. Other (Please specify: __________________________ )

What is the highest grade level of school that you have completed?
1. Some High School
2. High School graduate or GED
3. Some college or 2 year degree or trade school
4. 4 year college graduate
5. A graduate degree

Occupation
1. I currently work full time.
2. I currently work part time.
3. I am retired.
4. I am unemployed.
5. I am on disability.

In general, I would say my health is
1. Very good
2. Good
3. Fair
4. Poor

**Post Questionnaire- Code_______**

Have you have ever had colon cancer screening, including fecal blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, barium enema, or CT colonography

1. Yes which test ________ 2. No

If yes, how would you describe your experience?

1. positive experience
2. neutral experience
3. negative experience

Have you ever been offered but put off or refused colon cancer screening?

1. Yes 2. No if no skip next question

If yes- why- choose the one most important

1. didn’t think it was important
2. didn’t like the test
3. timing was bad
4. couldn’t get a ride
5. not sure
6. other

Which test for colon cancer screening would you prefer?

1. hemoccult- or stool testing for blood
2. sigmoidoscopy
3. colonoscopy
4. CT colonography
5. Colon capsule endoscopy
Would you have colon cancer screening if you could have your preferred test?

1. Yes 2. No

Was the computer program easy to use?

1. Yes 2. No

Did the computer program help you understand the different testing options?

1. Yes 2. No

Did the computer program help you choose a colon cancer screening test?

1. Yes 2. No