Reviewer's report

Title: The value of age and medical history for predicting colorectal cancer and adenomas in people referred for colonoscopy.

Version: 2 Date: 20 June 2011

Reviewer: Michael Hoffmeister

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for your reply (however, changes in the manuscript should be highlighted).

Major:

(1) In table 2, please provide the absolute numbers of participants and their percentage with respect to all participants (N (%)) next to the variable subgroups, such as age groups, gender, colonoscopy yes/no etc.

(2) Page 15, para 2, last sentence: the sentence about cancer prevalence should be re-evaluated, as your low prevalence of cancer is presumably attributable to the high proportion of subjects under 50 years (27%), whereas the study (not "studies") on screening colonoscopy cited included subjects aged 40-80 years only.

(3) Conclusions, page 16: In your reply, and in the abstract you speak of 'prioritisation' as one major use of the model. This is not reflected in the conclusions of the discussion.

(4) Methods, page 5, para 2: Please provide a sound description of the study design. This is likely not a 'trial' (which is commonly used as abbreviation of 'clinical trial'). Rather, it seems to be a cross-sectional study among patients undergoing colonoscopy.

Minor:

(5) Conclusions, page 16, first sentence: I guess 'developed' rather than 'developing' countries were referred to.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.