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Abstract Topic	Gastrointestinal cancer prevention
Abstract Title	Fecal MicroRNA's : a promising tool for colorectal cancer screening
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Abstract Body	limit abstract to 250 words
Introduction	Screening guidelines for the prevention and early detection of colo-rectal cancer (CRC) have evolved with a significant decrease in the prevalence and mortality in CRC. In the Western countries < 65% of the eligible population is up-to-date with screening, while nearly 28% has never been screened.
Methods	MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are short, endogenous, noncoding RNAs that regulate gene expression affecting various processes including angiogenesis and metastasis. There has been great interest in looking at the expression of various miRNAs for detection of CRC. Our preliminary study to detect aberrantly expressed miRNA in stools was conducted in the past two years and 48 patients were taken into consideration: 20 CRC and 28 advanced adenomas (AD). Mi-RNA test in stools (Quiagen tests) was performed in all 48 patients and compared to a control group of 20 patients. Patients with CRC had a significantly higher stool miR-21 level (p<0.01) and miR-92a level (p<0.0001) compared to controls.
Results	Mi-RNA test showed a 73% sensitivity (14 patients) in CRC and 58% (16 patients) in AD. 79% and 75% specificity was observed for CRC and AD.
Conclusions	While colonoscopy is still the dominant screening test, there is considerable interest in the development of accurate noninvasive screening markers with notable improvements in stool-based tests and mi RNA in particular which provides viable noninvasive options for average-risk persons. MiRNA would offer advantages over colonoscopy, including ease of completion, low cost, and low risk. Ongoing research of miRNA will quantify its uptake, adherence, cost-effectiveness, and appropriateness of the testing interval.