Factors Contributing to Appraisal and Help-seeking Delay among Patients with Colorectal Cancer in Armenia: a Research Grant Proposal

by

Nune Karapetyan MPH(c), MD(c)

Advising team:

Vahe Khachadourian, MD, MPH, PhD

Anahit Demirchyan, MD, MPH

Turpanjian School of Public Health

American University of Armenia

Yerevan, Armenia

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List of Abbreviations

AJCC American Joint Committee on Cancer

AUA American University of Armenia

C-SIM Cancer Symptom Interval Measure

CAM Cancer Awareness Measure

CLI Calendar landmarking instrument

CRC Colorectal cancer

gFOBt Guaiac fecal occult blood testing

GP General practitioner

SES Socioeconomic status

Abstract

Background: Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a major public health challenge worldwide. It is the third most common cancer among males, the second most common one among females, in the world. In high-income countries, the incidence of CRC tends to decrease and its survival tends to increase. In low and middle-income countries, such as Armenia is, the disease-specific rates have been increasing. Thus, in Armenia in 10 years from 2007 to 2017 the CRC disease-specific mortality has increased by 21.7%. Moreover, according to the predictions by 2040, the annual number of new cases of colon cancer will increase by 368. The time interval between the onset of the first symptom that is perceived by the patients as cancer alarming sign and the treatment initiation is considered as a total delay. The latter categories into appraisal, help-seeking and diagnostic delays. The proposed study will mainly investigate appraisal/help-seeking delay that results from the factors associated with patients and their decision-making process. Identification of factors that prolong the appraisal and help-seeking interval will allow shortening this time period and initiating early treatment of CRC, which will improve the prognosis of the disease and patients' survival.

Aim: The proposed quantitative study has an aim to investigate the proportion of delayed diagnosis and treatment among CRC patients, the proportion of the total delay among CRC patients due to the help-seeking/appraisal delay and the determinants of prolonged appraisal / help-seeking delay in Armenia.

Methods: The proposed study will utilize a cross-sectional study design, with interviewer-administered face-to-face interviews. In total, 782 CRC patients receiving their treatment in certain oncological departments in Yerevan, Armenia will be approached using census sampling. Delay duration will be calculated through the C-SIM validated instrument and its protocol for

calculating 'pseudo-exact' dates from estimated dates reported by the subjects. The methodology of the proposed study is developed according to the recommendations of the Aarhus Statement which provides guidance on designing and conducting research on cancer delay.

Analysis: Statistical analysis will be performed through STATA 13 and will include descriptive statistics, independent t-test, and chi-square test. Further, multiple logistic regression analysis will be performed and the model will be adjusted for such confounders as age, gender, marital status, and educational level.

The total budget required to conduct the project is 2,528,200 AMD. It will last from July 7, 2019, until February 7, 2020. The personal will consists of project coordinator, data collectors, data enterers.

Specific Aims and Research Question

The proposed study aims to answer the following questions:

Primary question

What is the association between the appraisal/help seeking delay occurrence of more than 2 weeks and patients' perception of rectal bleeding being a warning sign of CRC?

Secondary questions

- 1. What is the proportion of delayed diagnosis and treatment among CRC patients in Armenia?
- 2. What proportion of the total delay among CRC patients in Armenia is due to the help-seeking/appraisal delay?
- 3. What are the determinants of prolonged appraisal / help-seeking delay (patient delay) among CRC patients in Armenia?
 - What are the demographic factors causing prolonged help-seeking/appraisal delay among CRC patients in Armenia?
 - What are the barriers causing prolonged help-seeking/appraisal delay among CRC patients in Armenia?
 - What are the triggers contributing to medical help seeking among CRC patients in Armenia?

Background

Colorectal cancer

"Colorectal cancer is cancer that starts in the colon or the rectum. Colon cancer and rectal cancer are often grouped together because they have many features in common." Globally, colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third and the second most common cancer among males and females respectively. According to the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging, the 5-year survival rate of CRC among those over 65 years varies across stages, namely: the 5 year survival for patients' with stage I CRC is 89.1%, for those with stage II CRC, it is 55-84%, for those with stage III CRC, it is 45-85% and for those with stage IV CRC, it is 7.4%. The deterioration of survival by progress in the cancer stage confirms the importance of early diagnosis of this condition.

CRC alarming signs

Although at the early stages of the disease, CRC may be asymptomatic, patients often experience a change in bowel habits, mainly diarrhea, constipation and tenesmus may occur. One of the major and significant bowel cancer alarming signs is rectal bleeding (blood in stool). Continuous rectal bleeding among CRC patients may lead to anemia. Additionally, patients with CRC may experience abdominal pain, fatigue, and weight loss. These signs and symptoms might occur in diseases other than CRC, such as hemorrhoids, infectious diseases, and irritable bowel syndrome.⁴

CRC prevention and screening

The major strategy in CRC prevention is through addressing modifiable risk factors for the disease. Those factors include obesity, physical inactivity, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, excessive consumption of red meat, and fried and grilled food.⁵

In order to diagnose and treat CRC in a timely manner, individuals, especially those at a high risk for the disease should regularly undergo screening tests.⁵ There are two major types of screening tests for CRC: visual examination and stool tests.⁶ Colonoscopy is a widely-known visual examination of the large bowel, which, because of its high specificity and sensitivity, is considered the gold standard for CRC screening and diagnosis.⁷ Nevertheless, any country may not implement colonoscopy as a national screening test because of its high cost, therefore, cheaper alternative tests should be applied. Those test include: guaiac fecal occult blood testing (gFOBt) (reduces relative risk of CRC mortality by 16%, according to the last randomized controlled trials (RCTs ⁸)), flexible sigmoidoscopy (FS) (reduces CRC mortality by 26-31%), and fecal immunochemical testing (FIT), which is a modern version of gFOBt, shown to detect CRC in 95% of cases and has a sensitivity of 79% and specificity of 94%.^{7,9} Even though it is possible to achieve a high coverage of the eligible population for the alternative tests mentioned above, the efficiency of these tests, their positive predictive values are still questionable and future research in this field is needed.^{9,10}

Situation in the Republic of Armenia

In Armenia, during a 10-year period, from 2007 to 2017, in the ranking of the most fatal diseases, CRC moved from the thirteenth to the ninth place, with a 21.7% increase in disease-specific mortality. According to the Globocan 2018 data, CRC is the third cancer in Armenia by incidence and is the fourth cancer by mortality. In 2018, the number of newly diagnosed cases

of CRC among males was 367 and among females 623.¹² According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer estimates, by 2040, the annual number of new cases of colon cancer in Armenia will increase by 368.¹³ This is a trend observed in a number of low and middle income countries and can partly be attributable to certain behaviors risk factors (e.g. smoking, low physical activity, high body mass index (BMI), high-fat diet, excessive use of red meat, low-fiber diet and heavy alcohol use). Additionally, increased life expectancy and increased shared of elderly in the population are among other reasons contributing to increasing rates of CRC.¹⁴

Total delay duration and its categorization

The literature demonstrates that definitions and classifications of entire understanding on the time duration between the first onset of the CRC alarming symptom and first visit to health care facility vary from study to study. One of the first and basic categorizations of total delay was presented by Olesen et al (Figure 1)16, suggesting that there are three phases of delay. The first one is the patient delay or patient interval, which starts since the first onset of the disease-related symptoms and lasts until the first contact of the patient with a physician. Usually, people attend primary healthcare units and physicians here are "gatekeepers" who refer patients to specialized departments. The second one is the doctor delay, which starts with the first physician-patient contact and ends with the beginning of investigation of cancer-related symptoms. The third delay is the system delay, which starts with the initiation of symptom investigation and lasts until the beginning of cancer treatment. The amended version of this categorization (Hamilton, 2010; Din et al, 2015) combines the doctor and system delay into a single category, diagnostic interval.

Rationale for the study and gaps in the literature

This study will serve as the first step in examining the reasons for late stage presentation for CRC in Armenia. Findings from this study can help identifying and targeting population groups who are more prone to prolonged delays. The findings from this study can also inform developing certain interventions, increasing awareness on CRC alarming symptoms or CRC screening, reduce CRC late stage diagnosis and the improve patients' survival.

There are not any generally accepted guidelines on optimal time period for diagnosis of CRC, namely to seek for medical help when suffering from rectal bleeding. 19 Hence, different studies suggest different cut-offs beyond which patient interval are characterized as delayed, ranging from 2 weeks up to 3 or more months. 19, 20, 21,22 According to the opinion of a specialist in the field of oncology, Prof. Artur Sahakyan, patients who already experience symptoms of CRC at the time of diagnosis are often at an advanced stage of CRC, and would experience poor prognosis. Regardless of the stage of the disease at the time of diagnosis, it is crucial to start the treatment as soon as possible, as a longer appraisal/help-seeking delay would result in poorer disease prognosis. Hence, to define quantitatively the term "appraisal/help-seeking delay" and maintain its clinical meaningfulness, we have decided to select a cut-off point of 2 weeks, the shortest duration found in the literature. 19 Early diagnosis and treatment of symptomatic cancer patients allow increasing treatment effectiveness, improving survival rates and reducing the price of required medical care.²³ Despite the increasing number studies on CRC treatment delay, there are still many uncertainties and inconsistencies on this topic. ^{24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29} Namely, the influence of prolonged delay on CRC staging and patients' survival is debatable. According to several studies, delayed presentation of CRC cases might be associated with advanced stages of the disease. 24, 25 Ramos et. al. in systematic reviews conducted in 2007 and 2008 presented an

alternative view.^{26, 27} According to those reviews, a "waiting time paradox" exists between the colon cancer delay and the disease outcome. In other words, the reviews suggest protective effect of long delay on the colon cancer staging and survival. Those non-intuitive results might be explained through the differences of the inclusion-exclusion criteria, definition of delay, and measurement instruments utilized in the mentioned studies.^{26, 27} Other studies have observed U-shaped association between delay duration and patients' survival rate, namely, high mortality rate at first with its further reduction and then increase in accordance with CRC delay.^{28, 29} The authors partially explain the phenomenon of association of short delay duration and high mortality rate among patients by the excessive attention of health care providers towards severe cases. Particularly, acute clinical presentation of the disease may not only lead to the early diagnosis but also to ineffective treatment and poor prognosis.^{28,29} Also, a reason of this U shaped association might be a residual confounding.

Conceptual model and patient interval affecting factors

The proposed study will utilize the framework of "Pathways to Treatment" (Scott et al, 2012) (see Figure 2) and the definitions of delay presented by this theory.³⁰ The Aarhus statement, which presents a guideline on the improvement of studies in the cancer delay field, suggests using the model of "Pathways to Treatment" and its definitions in this type of studies.³¹ According to this model, there are four stages of the total interval: appraisal, help-seeking, diagnostic and pre-treatment. The appraisal interval starts with the date of the first symptom onset and ends with the day when a person decides to seek medical help. With the end of appraisal interval, help-seeking interval starts, which finishes with the first consultation with the physician. Then diagnostic interval begins, which lasts until the disease is diagnosed. The last stage is pre-treatment interval, which finishes with the treatment initiation. There are a number of

theories in the literature explaining socio-demographic, psychological and other factors influencing people's symptom appraisal. According to the Whitaker et. al., appraisal delay forms through three main steps: detection of changes in the body, interpretation of the detected symptoms and *response* to the interpretation (Figure 3).³² Detection of bodily changes assumes presence of symptoms significant enough to be identified by the patients. Interpretation is a process of evaluation of the symptoms. This process determines whether a person will positively respond to the changes in his/her body and seek for medical care. Otherwise, one may deny the occurred changes, avoid palpating a painful zone or looking at the tumor. Another type of response may be self-monitoring or consulting with family and friends. It has been shown that usually those who don't consult with their relatives about changes occurred in their body tend to have a longer delay.³³ All these three phases, detection, interpretation, and response, are influenced by factors such as knowledge, attention, expectation, and identity. Knowledge on cancer alarming symptoms, which people gain due to their previous experience (learning about cancer due to comorbidities), observations (learning about cancer from those who already have the disease) and self-education (learning about cancer from the TV, Internet, magazines, etc.), is an influential factor, which can prolong or reduce delay duration.³⁴ It was found that those with low level of knowledge and education usually report later about their symptoms.³³ It is known that there is an association between some socio-demographic characteristics (age, gender, and income) and level of knowledge about cancer alarming symptoms. Namely, males, elderlies and those with low income usually know less about cancer warning symptoms. 32 Attention is an important factor, influencing detection and interpretation processes. It may be affected by competing demands or external stressors. For instance, people with low socioeconomic status (SES) and persistent problems are less likely to consider the probability of occurring health

problems in future and focus mainly on their daily demands. Also, it is considered that women are likely to postpone seeking medical care because of competing demands and putting others' interests above their own. 32,33 There are some expectations and beliefs among population associated with cancer symptoms. Absence or presence of those expectations may prolong or reduce patient interval. These expectations are associated with age (elderlies connect their symptoms with their age), gender (cancer types specific for males are being diagnosed on late stages among females), symptom duration, its specificity (to what degree the common cancer signs may be referred to the signs of other diseases). Also, those with low SES, often with poor health and several symptoms, do not pay attention to the newly added cancer alarming "several bodily changes". 32 Identity is another factor influencing the duration of patient delay. Depending on the type of personality, one will be attentive to his/her health or not, perceive cancer as a curable/incurable disease and take some measures in a timely manner. Also, psychological factors as fear of CRC diagnostic test and its possible positive outcome also alter people's decision to consult with the physician. 35

Methods

Study design

The proposed study will utilize a cross-sectional study design. The data on delay duration and other variables will be collected via an interviewer administered face to face survey.

Setting & Population

Study participants will be recruited through health care providers in the departments of general and abdominal surgery and chemotherapy of ArtMed MC and National Center of Oncology, in the departments of chemotherapy in Muracan MC and in the department of general and

abdominal surgery in Mikaelyan Institute of Surgery. The subjects will be those patients who will receive treatment in the mentioned departments during data collection period. The inclusion criteria for the eligible subjects are passing chemotherapy or surgical treatment in the mentioned facilities during data collection procedure, age above 18 years, ³⁶ primary diagnosis of CRC²¹ within 6 month period preceding the interview. ³⁷ The exclusion criteria are inability to participate in the survey because of health issues, ³⁶ unstable psychological condition of the patient because of which the latter is not able to respond to the questions adequately ³⁶ and not knowing Armenian language. Census sampling strategy will be approached as all the eligible cases will be approached in the mentioned tertiary hospitals during data collection period. The demographic factors (age, gender, residency, marital status) and reasons of refusal of those who will not consent to participate will be recorded.

Sample size

For the sample size calculation, the formula 38 of two equal groups for comparing proportions is used. The sample size is calculated with the level of significance of 0.05 and power of 80%.

$$n = \frac{[p_1(1 - p_1) + p_2(1 - p_2)]}{(p_1 - p_2)^2} \times c_{p,power}$$

In the formula the value of p_1 corresponds to the percentage of those patients who delayed seeking medical help and perceive rectal bleeding to be a CRC warning sign, and p_2 is the percentage of patients who do not have delay and perceive rectal bleeding to be a CRC warning sign. As majority of research in this field was conducted in such countries as England, Australia, Denmark or Sweden that are quite different than Armenian population we were not able to detect

a reliable proportion for the sample size calculation. To go with the most conservative approach it was assumed that p_1 =60% and p_2 =40%. Hence,

$$n = \{ [0.6(1-0.6) + 0.4(1-0.4)]/0.2^2 \} * 7.9 = 95 \text{ per group (in total n=190)}$$

Estimating the response rate of 64.2 %³⁹ it would be necessary to approach 296 CRC patients (n=190/0.642) to achieve the required sample size of 190 subjects. To understand whether selection bias may be a limitation of the proposed study, demographic characteristics of those who refuse to participate will be compared to the study participants, enabling to assess whether those two groups significantly differ from each other.

Variables and measures

The total, appraisal, help-seeking, diagnostic and pretreatment delay durations will be measured in weeks. The outcome variable, patient interval (appraisal and help seeking delay), will be dichotomized into two categories: less or equal to 2 weeks and more than 2 weeks (≤2 weeks vs. >2 weeks). The main subgroups of independent variables will be sociodemographic factors, barriers leading to prolonged help-seeking/appraisal delay and triggers that motivated people to seek for medical help. Demographic will include age, gender, income, residential area, level of education, marital status, and employment. The variables specified as barriers will be perception of rectal bleeding, change in bowel habits, abdominal pain, pain during back passage, tiredness, and weight loss being alarming signs of CRC, having competing demands, financial problems, distance problems, fear of colonoscopy, difficulty discussing symptoms with a doctor, fear of diagnosis, and poor doctor-patient communication. Competing demands will be measured in accordance with patients' responses: "difficult to get an appointment with a doctor at a convenient time", "too busy to make time to go to the doctor", "too many things to worry about". The responses "couldn't afford a doctor visit" and "difficulties in getting transport" will be

identified as a financial problem and distance problems, respectively. Fear of colonoscopy and fear of diagnosis will be defined according to the responses "I was worried about what they might find wrong" and "I was worried about what tests they might want to do", respectively. The variable "difficulty discussing symptom with doctor" will be formed through combination of the following responses: "it is embarrassing talking to the doctor about my symptoms", "I didn't feel confident talking about my symptom(s) with the doctor". Finally, the variable "poor doctor-patient communication" will unite the responses "was worried about wasting the doctor's time", "doctor is difficult to talk to", "found it difficult to get an appointment with a particular doctor", "I've had a bad experience at the doctors in the past", "I was worried the doctor wouldn't take my symptom(s) seriously", "I didn't want to be seen as somebody who makes a fuss".

To find out triggers that make people to seek for medical help, the following variables will be assessed: realization of the symptom seriousness ("thought the symptom was serious"), continuous CRC signs ("symptom didn't go away"), worsening of health state ("symptom got worse"), consulting with family/friends ("partner or family member suggested it."), visiting doctor for another reason ("opportunity to talk during doctor visit for other reason.") and TV campaign about CRC ("I saw a TV show/advertisement about my current disease"). To assess patients' knowledge on CRC screening procedure and accessibility of the test, the following variables will be measured: awareness on CRC screening test, ever passed screening tests, amount of passed tests, reasons for passed tests. Also, variables on CRC patients' disease stage (AJCC stage) and their comorbidities will be obtained from medical records. (Table 1).

Data collection and questionnaires

Delay duration will be measured using Cancer Symptom Interval Measure (C-SIM) validated questionnaire. Estimated dates provided by the subjects will be turned into "pseudo-exact" dates

in accordance with C-SIM protocol (Table 2).³⁶ According to the Aarhus recommendation, it is worth to use standardized questionnaire to be able to receive study results comparable to other studies.³¹ The C-SIM questionnaire is shown to cause low anxiety when being administered by the interviewer.³⁶ Its protocol was previously adopted and used within the frame of SYMPTOM colorectal, lung and pancreatic studies. 40,41,42 To help the subjects in estimating delay duration (first symptom onset, the day when they decided to apply to doctor, the day when they were diagnosed and started the treatment), calendar landmarking instrument (CLI) will be used (Figure 4).⁴³ The adapted version of CLI which will be utilized in the proposed study, which will include all the dates that probably might be significant for Armenian population (New Year, Merry Christmas, Easter, birthdays, days of football matches, etc.). So, the study participants will try to recall their delay phases through some dates memorable for them. Utilization of the landmarking instrument is the recommendation of the Aarhus Statement which provides guidance on how to improve research conducted in the field of cancer delay.³¹ According to this statement, collection of valid information on the delay time frame and reduction of recall bias can be achieved due to the CLI. Cross checking of patient's presentation, diagnosis and treatment initiation dates will be done and self-reported information will be compared with medical charts. The question asking about the first sign the subjects experienced and think it might be associated with CRC, is adopted from the SYMPTOM colorectal questionnaire, which is a modification of C-SIM. 40 Also, the patients will be asked about their perception on CRC alarming signs. Those questions will be adapted from the Cancer Research UK Bowel Cancer Awareness Measure (Bowel CAM)⁴⁴, which is a validated instrument and has been used previously.⁴⁵ The barriers that make people prolong their diagnostic interval will be obtained through cancer awareness measure (CAM), which was modified in 2014. In comparison to the version used prior to 2014,

this one is not validated, nevertheless it more fits to the objectives and population of the current study. 46 To investigate triggers that shorten appraisal and help-seeking interval, the questionnaire used in the Hunter Community Study: Early Detection of Bowel Cancer (Ryan J.C. et. al., 2012) will be used. 20 The 5 point Likert scale is adapted to identify the response options of these questions and measure certain independent variables. To assess the subjects' knowledge and practices on CRC screening tests, a Colorectal Cancer Screening Questionnaire will be used. 47 This validated questionnaire includes a brief description of bowel cancer screening tests, has items assessing whether the subjects underwent those tests in the past and what were the frequency and reasons for passing those test(s). Information on socio-demographic indicators (age, gender, income, occupation, marital status, etc.) will be collected through a demographic form adopted from Evaluation of the Child Health State Certificate Program report. 48 The question on the subject's smoking status is adopted from the C-SIM. 36 (Appendix 1) The translated version of the discussed questionnaire will be pre-tested in one of the mentioned medical facilities before the study initiation and revised and modified as needed. (Appendix 2)

Study administration and tools

To record data collection progress and track refusals and reasons for refusal, a journal form is developed (Appendix 3). The information in the journal form will also link participants' names and ID numbers. ID number will consist of three components. The first one corresponds to the number of hospital where the patient will be approached (1-Artmed MC, 2-Mikaelyan Institute of Surgery, 3-National Center of Oncology named after V.A. Fanarjian); the second component will correspond to the department number in each hospital (1- general and abdominal surgery department, 2-chemotherapy department in ArtMed MC and National Center of Oncology). In Mikaelyan Institute of Surgery patients only from one department will be approached and the

second ID component here will always be 1. The third component of the ID number will be a three-digit number - the sequential number of interviews conducted in each department, starting from 001 (Table 3). The date of patients' treatment initiation, some demographic data of CRC patients, their disease stage and comorbidities will be collected from medical records via a record review form (Appendix 4). Collecting demographic data from medical records will be done to compare available demographic characteristics of those who will refuse to participate in the study with the study participants. CRC patients will be approached for the interview in the hospital during their chemotherapy or surgery treatment receiving procedure. The interviewer will introduce herself to the patients on her own and will not approach them through the physicians working in the department. This will be done in order not to put patients under pressure, thus not forcing them participate in the interview. To increase the subject's interest in study participation and their response rate, ten-minute educational session on healthy diet and lifestyle for those who passed colorectal surgery will be organized. An educational session will be held after conducting an interview not to alter participants' responses to avoid introducing bias to the study. For this purpose, corresponding flyers will be developed. However, the subjects will be informed that they can refuse to participate in educational session in case they do not want to do so (Figures 5, 6). 49, 50, 51

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics will be conducted to characterize the study population and compare patients with and without delay. For categorical variables, including sex, residency, marital status, and smoking status, chi-square test will be run to compare their distribution among participants who will refuse to participate to those who will agree to participate. An independent t-test will be applied to compare the mean age between those two groups.

Chi-square test will also be used to compare the groups with delay and without delay in terms of demographic characteristics. Independent t-test will be used to compare the mean age between the two groups. In the same way, appraisal and help-seeking delay predictors will be compared between the groups with delay and no delay and chi-square test will be performed to compare the groups in terms of those variables. For descriptive presentation of those variables and easy visual perception they will be categorized into barriers, triggers and demographic characteristics. Also, duration of help-seeking/appraisal, diagnosis and total delay will be descriptively calculated. To answer the primary research question, evaluate the association between the dependent and independent (barriers, triggers and comorbidities) variables, univariable logistic regression analysis will be done for each of the predictors separately. Further, those variables which will be found to be significantly associated with the outcome will be included in the final model and multiple logistic regression analysis will be run. The models will be adjusted for age, gender, marital status and educational level.³⁹ Predictors included in the final model will be checked for multicollinearity. Finally, multivariable logistic regression analysis will be performed to assess the association between the groups with ≤ 2 weeks of delay and ≥ 2 weeks of delay and CRC staging. This association also will be adjusted for age, gender, marital status and educational level.

Logistic considerations

The overall process will take seven months, since July 7, 2019 till February 7, 2020. Data collection will be performed by 2 trained interviewers from the July 7, 2019 up to December 7, 2020. Double data entry will be performed simultaneously with data collection by 2 individuals. To assure quality of the collected data, all the questionnaires will be checked for missing data (whether critical or big portion of information is missing in the questionnaire) and spot checks

will be performed for 15% of interviews conducted during 1 month. As phone numbers of the subjects will not be collected, the spot checks should be performed the same day that interview was conducted. From December 7, 2020 till February 7, 2020 statistical analysis will be performed and the results of the study figured out.

Budget

The budget of the proposed study is developed based on the personal, operational and transportation costs. Personal costs include salary for a project coordinator, 2 data collectors and 2 data enterers. Operational costs include office rent, color printing, copies and stationary. The total amounts required to accomplish the project is 2,528,200 AMD (Table 4). The data collectors and enterers will get paid by the hour, whereas the project coordinator a fixed salary. Calculation of these costs is based on the average wages operating in the Armenian labor market. Office costs are calculated based on the average rental prices (dram per day) of small apartments (40km²) in the city center. The office will be rented for 40 hours to conduct training for data collectors and enterers, perform data entry and organize discussions with the research team. Rent costs might be reduced if implementing organization will provide an area that might be utilized as an office. Printing, Copies and stationery costs are based on the average costs of certain products existing in Yerevan.

Human/animal subjects

The subjects will be enrolled in the study after giving an oral consent to participate (Appendix 5,6). The subjects' questionnaires will be linked to the journal form and record review form through their ID numbers. Access to the mentioned papers will be available only for the research team, will be used only for the research purposes and will be destroyed after conducting data

analysis. Ethical approval will be obtained from American University of Armenia Institutional Review Board prior to data collection.

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Tables

Table 1: Variable Types and Measurements

Variable		Туре	Measure	Source		
Dependent variables	Dependent variables					
Delayed appraisal an seeking	d help-	Binary	≤2 week />2 week	Retrospectively through CLI and cross checking through medical charts		
Duration of the total delay		Continuous		Retrospectively through CLI and cross checking through medical charts		
Independent variable	?S					
Socio-demographic factors	Age	Continuous	years	Record review form		
	Gender	Categorical	male/ female	Record review form		
	Residential area	Categorical	Yerevan/other cities/ villages	Record review form		
	Income	Ordinal	Substantially below average/ little below average/ average/ little above average/ substantially above average	Demographic form		

	Educational level	Ordinal	School (less than 10 years)/ school (10 years)/ Professional technical education (10-13 years)/ Institute,University/ Postgraduate	Demographic form
	Marital status	Categorical	married/ separated/ divorced/widowed/ single	Record review form
	Employment	Categorical	unemployed/ employed/self- employed/seasonal worker or farmer/ student/ retired	Demographic form
	Smoking status	Categorical	ex-smoker/current smoker/ non smoker	C-SIM questionnaire
Barriers	Perception of rectal bleeding being alarming sign of CRC	Binary	yes/no	Bowel CAM
	Perception of change in bowel habits being	Binary	yes/no	

	alarming sign of CRC			
	Competing demands	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	CAM, the modified version
	Financial problems	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	Hunter Community Study: Early Detection of Bowel Cancer
	Distance problems	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	
	Fear of colonoscopy	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	CAM, the modified version
	Difficulty discussing symptoms with a doctor	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	
	Fear of diagnosis	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	
	Poor doctor- patient communicati on	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	
Triggers	Realization of the symptom seriousness	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	Hunter Community Study: Early Detection of Bowel Cancer
	Continuous CRC signs	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	
	Worsening of health state	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	

	Consulting with family/friend s	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	
	Visiting doctor for another reason	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	
	TV campaign about CRC	Ordinal	5 point Likert scale	
CRC screenings	Awareness on screening tests	Binary	yes/no	Colorectal Cancer Screening Questionnaire
	Ever passed screening tests	Binary	yes/no	
	Amount of passed screening tests	Continuous	times	
	Reasons of passed screening tests	Categorical	 It was part of a routine exam or check-up. It was because of a symptom or health problem. 	

		3. It was a follow-up of an earlier abnormal test.4. Don't know5. Refused	
CRC stage	Ordinal	Stage I/stage II/stage III/ stage IV	Medical Records

Table 2: Cancer Symptom Interval Measure (C-SIM)

Protocol for calculating 'pseudo-exact' dates from estimated dates to calculate time interval \mathbf{s}^{28}

Text for estimated date	Rule	Example text	Example recode
'X		'4 months ago'	Count back 4 months
days/weeks/months/years			from completion date
ago' Few / about / approx /			
range etc			
'Range of months or	Take midpoint of	'2-3 years ago'	Count back 2.5 years
years ago'	range	'Jan-Mar 08'	from completion date 15.02.10
'about (or approx) x	Ignore 'about' or	'About 4 months ago'	Count back 4 months
days/weeks/months/years ago'	'approx'		from completion date
'Two days'	Take first date	'3/4 Feb 2008'	03.02.2008
'Early Feb/Late Jan 09' (or similar)	Take 1st Feb 09	'Early Feb/Late Jan 09'	01.02.09
Few weeks/months etc	Few=3	'Few months ago'	Count back 3 months
ago			from completion dates
Incomplete month/year			
'Year' (only)	01.07.xxxx	'2008'	01.07.2008
'Date/Month but no year'	Take first one	'15 th July'	The first 15.07 prior to completion date
'Month' (no date)	Take 15 th of the month	January 2007	15.01.2007
Early/late/mid etc			
'Early year' (only)	15.02.xxxx	'Early 2008'	15.02.2008
'End of year'	Take last date in year	'End of 2009'	31.12.2009
'Mid month'	Take 15 th month	'Mid-January 2007'	15.01.2007
'Late month'	Take 23 rd month	'Late-January 2007'	23.01.2007
'End of month'	Take last date of the month	'End Jan 09'	31.01.2009
'2 nd week in the month'	Take 10 th month	'2 nd week in Jan 07'	10.01.2009
'Beginning of month'	1st date of the given month	Beg Feb 08	01.02.2008

'Beginning of month'	1st date of the given	Beg Feb	The first 01.02
(no year given)	month		counting back from
			completion date
Seasons and holidays			
'Spring'	15.04.xxxx	'Spring 2007'	15.04.2007
'Early Spring'	15.03.xxxx	'Early Spring 2007'	15.03.2007
'Late spring'	15.05.xxxx	'Late spring 2007'	15.05.2007
'Summer'	15.07.xxxx	'Summer 2007'	15.07.2007
'Early Summer'	15.06.xxxx	'Early Summer 2007'	15.06.2007
'Late Summer'	15.08.xxxx	'Late Summer 2007'	15.08.2007
'Autumn'	15.10.xxxx	'Autumn 2007'	15.10.2007
'Early Autumn'	15.09.xxxx	'Early Autumn 2007'	15.09.2007
'Late Autumn'	15.11.xxxx	'Late Autumn 2007'	15.11.2007
'Winter'	15.01.xxxx	'Winter 2007'	15.01.2007
'Early Winter'	15.12.xxxx	'Early Winter 2007'	15.12.2007
'Late Winter'	15.02.xxxx	'Late Winter 2007'	15.02.2007
'Good Friday'	Recode to exact date	'Good Friday 2009'	10.04.2009
Easter	Recode to exact date	'Easter 2009'	12.04.2009
Xmas	Recode to exact date	'Xmas 2009'	25.12.2009
Before Xmas	15.12.xxxx	Before Xmas 2009	15.12.2009
After Xmas	31.12.xxxx	After Xmas 2009	31.12.2009
Other			
'Week beginning'	Code as that date	'Week beginning 15.02.07'	15.02.2007
'Unclassified'		e.g. illegible	99/99/9999

Table 3: ID number assignment guide

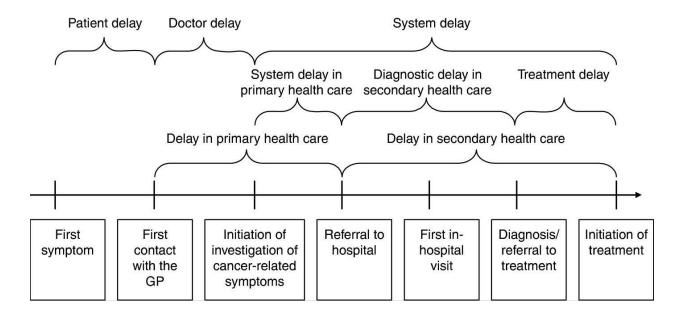
N	Hospital		Department	Subject Number
1	Art-Med MC	1	General and abdominal surgery	01
		2	Chemotherapy	01
2	Mikaelyan Institute of Surgery	1	General and abdominal surgery	01
3	National Center of Oncology named	1	General and abdominal surgery	01
	after V.A. Fanarjian	2	Chemotherapy	01

Table 4: Budget

Cost-type	Unit of Cost-type	Number of Units	Unit Cost in AMD	Total in AMD			
Personnel	•			1,202,400			
Project coordinator salary	Months	7	100,000	700,000			
Data collector payment	Hours	95	1,200	114,000			
Data enterer payment	Hours	32	1,200	38,400			
Operational	Operational						
Office rent	Hours	40	25,000	1,000,000			
Color print	Double-sided sheets	250	200	50,000			
Copies	Double-sided sheets	1000	15	15,000			
Stationary (notepad, pen, pencil)	-	1	15,000	15,000			
File	Item	190	20	3,800			
Transportati	Transportation						
Taxi	Round-trip	296	2,000	592,000			
Total in AM	2,528,200						

Figures

Figure 1: Categorization of delay



^{*}Adopted from Delay in diagnosis: the experience in Denmark. (Olesen et al, 2009)

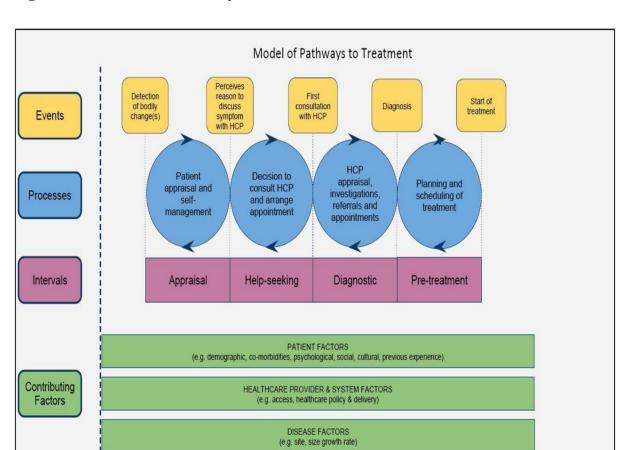
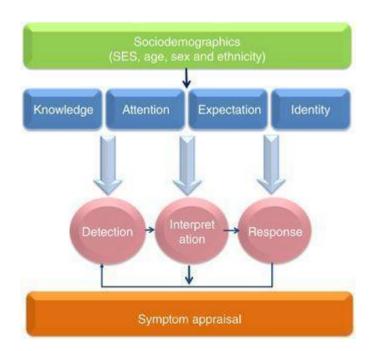


Figure 2: The Model of Pathways to Treatment

*Adopted from The Model of Pathways to Treatment: Conceptualization and integration with existing theory (Scott et,]. al, 2012)

Reproduced with permission of SAGE Publications Ltd., London, Los Angeles, New Delhi, Singapore and Washington DC, from Walter FM, Scott, SE, Webster A, Emery JD. 'The Andersen Model of Total Patient Delay:
a systematic review of its application in cancer diagnosis'. J Health Services Research & Policy (© Walter, 2012).

Figure 3: The influence of socio-demographic factors and psychosocial 'elements' on patient delay



*Adopted from the Applying symptom appraisal models to understand socio-demographic differences in responses to possible cancer symptoms: a research agenda (Whitaker et. al, 2015)

Figure 4: Calendar Landmarking Instrument (CLI)

🖊 2018 Օրացույց

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		1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3					1	2	3
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	28	29	30	31					25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

1 Սուրբ Ձատիկ

29 30

- 17 Թավշյա հեղափոխության սկիզբ

15 16 17 18 19

22 23 24 25 26

20 21

27 28

- 23 Մերժ Մարգսյանի հրաժարական 24 Հայոց Ցեղասպանության զոհերի հիշատակի օր
- 1 Աշխատանքի և աշխատավորների աշրատավորները միջազգային օր 8 Նիկոլ Փաշինյանի վարչապետ ընտրվելը 9 Հաղթանակի օր 25 Վերջին զանգ 28 Հայաստանի Առաջին հանրապետության օր

13 14 15 16 17

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25 26

> 1 Երեխաների պաշտպանության միջազգային օր

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24 25 26 27 28

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15 16

22 23

29 30

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Կիր	Երկ	Երբ	Qnp	Հնգ	Ուրբ	Ğшр		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30	31						

- 5 Մահմանադրության օր
- 8 Վարդավառ

Oqnumnu

•	Կիր	Երկ	Երբ	Qnp	Հնգ	Ուրբ	Շաբ
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	

12 U. Աստվածածնի վերափոխումը (Խաղողօրհնեք)

Մեպտեմբեր

•	Կիր	Երկ	tne	Qnp	Հնգ	Ուրբ	Շաբ
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	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						

- 1 Գիտելիքի և դպրության օր 21 Անկախության օր 23 Երևանի քաղաքապետի (ավագանու) ընտրություններ

١	≺n	կա	եմ	ip	եր

Δ.	Կիր	Երկ	Երբ	Չրբ	Հնգ	Ուրբ	Շաբ
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	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			

- 31 Հերոուին
- 5 Ուսուցչի օր 11-12 Ֆրանկոֆոնիայի օրեր Երևանում

Նոյեմբեր

•	Կիր	Երկ	Երբ	Չրբ	Հնգ	Ուրբ	Շաբ
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	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	

Դեկտեմբեր

•	Կիր	Երկ	Бրբ	Qpp	Հնգ	Ուրբ	Guip
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	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

- 7 Երկրաշարժի զոհերի հիշատակի օր 9 Խորհրդարանական ընտրություններ 31 Ամանոր (Նոր տարի)

Figure 5: Training brochure (English version)

<u>Preparing Oral Rehydration</u> Solutions at Home

In case of frequent and profuse diarrhea ORS should be used

- 1 liter of water
- 3/2 teaspoon of table salt
- · 2 tablespoons of sugar

Tips to improve your bowel habits

- Eat small portions of meal
- Eat 5-6 times a day
- Eat slowly
- Chew food to the mashed potato consistency
- Eat only peeled fruits
- Limit or avoid alcohol, caffeine, dairy and high-sugar drinks (cola)
- Drink 1.5-2 liters of water every day (8 average glasses)

Keep a Food Diary

	When you eat	What you eat	Any digestive problems	
ŀ				
ľ				

The diary will allow to identify food you do not tolerate and avoid it in the future.

Advices and Tips on Healthy Diet After Bowel Surgery



Controlling diarrhea/constipation

You can use

- ✓ White bread and pasta
- Refined cereals (corn flakes white rice)
- Milk, smooth yoghurt, ice cream
- ✓ Semolina
- ✓ Clear soups
- ✓ Cheese
- ✓ Tender and lean meat, poultry, fish
- ✓ Eggs
- Oil, margarine, butter and mayonnaise
- ✓ Fruit juices (except prune juice)
- ✓ Vegetable juices
- ✓ Smooth jam, honey
- ✔ Cucumber
- Carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, asparagus tips, pureed spinach, peeled eggplant peeled, green beans (well cooked)



You can't use

- □ Wholegrain bread and pasta
- Brown or wild rice
- Wholegrain cereals (porridge, muesli), weetabix, branflakes
- ☐ Yoghurt, pudding and ice cream with nuts or pieces of
- ☐ Soups with pieces of vegetable
- ☐ Tough or coarse meats with gristle
- □ Fatty foods
- □ Chunky peanut butter
- ☐ Marmalade with shreds
- Dried beans or peas (pulses)
- □ Baked beans
- □ Seeds and nuts, popcorn, pickles
- Horseradish, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, peas, squashes, pulses, sweet corn
- Pineapple, figs, berries, coconut, dried fruits, prunes

In case of colostomy you should consider

Foods that loosen stool Raw vegetables, spices, prunes, chocolate, fresh fruit, salad dressing, coffee.

Foods that may cause wind Nuts, fruit, cucumber (especially the skin), sprouts, beans and pulses,

chocolate, onions, curries, sweet corn, beer.

Foods that can cause odours

Green, leafy vegetables (particularly asparagus), fish, eggs, onions, beans, cheese.

Foods that can control odours
Tomato juice, orange juice, natural
yoghurt, parsley.

Foods that may thicken output
Bananas (very ripe), boiled rice,
porridge, smooth peanut
butter, instant mashed potato, white
bread, pasta, gelatine.

Figure 6: Training brochure (Armenian version)

<u>Օրալ ռեհիդրատացիոն</u> լուծույթներ պատրաստումը <u>տան պայմաններում</u>

Պետք է օգտագործել առատ և համախակի լուծի ժամանակ

- 1 լիտր ջուր
- ¾ թեյի գդալ կերակրի աղ
- 2 ձաշի գդալ շաքարավազ

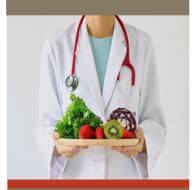
Խորհուրդներ աղիների գործունեությունը կարգավորոլու համար

- Մնունդը ընդունեք փոքր չափաբաժիններով
- Մնվեք օրը 5-6 անգամ
- Դանդաղ կերեք
- Մոնունդը ծամեք մինչևմիատարր զանգվածի ձևավորումը
- Կերեք միայն կլպած մրգեր
- Մահմանաձակեք կամ հրաժարվեք ալկոհոլից, կոֆֆեինից, և շաքարով հարուստ ըմպելիքներից /կոլա/
- Խմեք օրական 1.5-2 լիտր ջուր /8 միջին չափի բաժակ/

Վարեք սննդային օրագիր

Որ ժամին եք սնվել	Ինչ եք կերել	Մարսո- ղական խնդիր- ներ առաջա ցել են	Որ ժամին են մարսողա- կան խնդիրներ առաջացել

Օրագրի շնորհիվ հնարավոր կլինի հայտնաբերել չմարսվող ուտելիքները և բացառել դրանք սննդակարգից։ Խորհուրդներ հաստ աղու վիրահատությունից հետո համապատասխան սննդակարգի մասին



Կարգավորում ենք փորլուծությունը/փորկա պությունը

Դուք կարող եր օգտագործել

- Մպիտակ հաց և մակարոնեղեն
- Մշակված՝ առանց թեփի, հացահատիկ /ողորկված բրինձ, կեղևազտված ցորեն/
- Կաթ, յոգուրտ, պաղպաղակ
- Մամիթ
- Փափուկ աուպեր
- Պանիր
- Նուրբ, անյուղ միս, թոչնամիս, ձուկ
- շուկ
- 🗸 Ցուղ, մարգարին, կարագ և մայոնեզ
- 🗸 Մրգային հյութեր /բացի սալորի հյութից/
- Բանջարեղենային հյութեր
- Ջեմեր, մեղր
- Վարունգ, գազար, պոմիդոր, կարտոֆիլ,, ծնեբեկ /спаржа/, սմբուկ, կանաչ լոբի



- <u> Ռուք չպետք է օգտագործեք</u>
 - Թեփով հարստացված, ամբողջական, չկեղևազատված ցորենի ալյուրից պատրաստված հաց և մակարոնողեն
 - 🗆 Շագանակագույն չողորկված բրինձ
 - Շիլшներ /манная каша, кукурузные хлопья/
 - Պաղպաղակ with ընկույզի կամ մրգի կտորներով
 - Սուպեր բանջարեղենի կտորներով
 - Ճարպոտ սնունդ
 - Չորացած լոբի կամ ոլոռ, ոսպ
 - Ընդեղեն /ընկույզ/, ադիբուդի,
 - Horseradish, բրոկկոլի, ծաղկակաղամբ, կաղամբ, սիսեռ, սալոր, ոսպ, եգիպտացորեն։
 - □ Արքայախնձոր, թուզ, հատապտուղներ, կոկոս, չորացրած միրգ, սալոր

Կոլոստոմալիդեպքում պետք է հաշվի առնել

Կղանթը *թուլացնող* սնունդ Հում բանջարեղեն, համեմունքներ, սալորաչիր, շոկոլադ, թարմ միրգ, սուրձ:

Գագեր առաջացնող սնունդ Ընկույզ, մրգեր, վարունգ /հատկապես կեղևը/, լոբի, ոսպ:

Հոտ առաջացնող սնունդ Կանաչի, կանաչ բանջարեղեն /օր. ծնեբեկ/, ձուկ, ձու, սոխ, լոբի, պանիր:

Մնունդ, որը կարգավորում է առաջացող հոտը Տոմատի հյութ, նարնջի հյութ, յոգուրտ, մաղադանոս.

Կղանքը խտացնող սնունդ Բանան /հասած/, խաշած բրինձ, շիլա, փաոփւկ գետնանուշ կարագ, կարտոֆիլի պյուրե, սպիտակ հաց, մակարոն, ժելատին:

Appendices

Appendix 1 Questionnaire (English Version)

Questionnaire of the cross-sectional study "Factors Contributing to Appraisal and Helpseeking Delay among Patients with Colorectal Cancer in Armenia" 38

Participant ID	
Interviewer name	
Interview date	(dd/mm/yyyy)
Interview start time	(24 hour format)
Interview end time	(24 hour format)

Section 1: Warning signs

This set of questions is about your awareness of your current disease, it is not assessing your personal risk of disease. The questions should take around 20 minutes to complete. This is not a test, we are interested in your thoughts and beliefs so please answer the questions as honestly as you can. All your answers are confidential. Please be aware that I am unable to answer questions during the interview, but there will be time to address any queries at the end.

The following may or may not be warning signs for your current disease. We are interested in your opinion:		
Q1. Do you think bleeding from your back passage could be a sign of your current disease? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Do not know		
Q2. Do you think persistent pain in your abdomen (tummy) could be a sign of your current disease?	1. Yes 2. No	

	3. Do not know			
[POINT OF CLARIFICATION]: persistent is lasting 3 weeks or longer				
Q3. Do you think a change in bowel habits (diarrhea, constipation or both) over a period of weeks could be a sign of your current disease?	 Yes No Do not know 			
[POINT OF CLARIFICATION]: bowel habit refers to changes in po	poing			
Q4. Do you think a feeling that your bowel does not completely empty after using the lavatory could be a sign of your current disease?	 Yes No Do not know 			
Q5. Do you think blood in your stools could be a sign of your current disease?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Do not know			
Q6. Do you think pain in your back passage could be a sign of your current disease?	 Yes No Do not know 			
Q7. Do you think a lump in your abdomen (tummy) could be a sign of your current disease?	 Yes No Do not know 			
Q8. Do you think that tiredness/anemia could be a sign of your current disease?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Do not know			
[POINT OF CLARIFICATION]: anemia is when you don't have enough red blood cells.				
Q9. Do you think unexplained weight loss could be a sign of your current disease?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Do not know			

Section 2: About your symptoms

These questions are about symptoms you noticed before your diagnosis.

Question	Response options
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Q10. What was the first thing or symptom you noticed that made you think something might be wrong? (Mark all that apply)	 Change in bowel habit; Bleeding from the back passage; Back pain; Indigestion or abdominal pain 'that wasn't normal for you'; A decrease in appetite, Unexplained weight loss, Fatigue or tiredness 'that is unusual for you', Feeling different 'in yourself' from usual Other (specify)
--	---

The following questions are about when you first noticed a symptom and when you first told your GP(general practitioner) or nurse about it.

Please give an exact date if you can. Otherwise, give your best estimate. (For example approximately how long ago, the month or season). You may wish to refer to your diary or calendar if you have it with you.

№	Question	Response options	Question Source
Q11.	A When did you first notice the symptom(s) you have mentioned?	day month year estimate (3month, ago, June)	C-SIM questionna ire ³⁶
	B When did you first tell your GP or nurse?	day month year estimate (3month, ago, June)	
	C Put a cross here if you didn't tell your GP or nurse		

Section 3: Barriers to seeking help

Which of the following put you off going to the doctor? Please choose your answer from this

card.

Please, choose to which extent do you agree or disagree with each particular statement below.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q12. I found it embarrassing talking to the doctor about my symptoms	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q13. I was worried about wasting the doctor's time.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q14. My doctor is difficult to talk to.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q15. I found it difficult to get an appointment with a particular doctor.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q16. I found it difficult to get an appointment with a doctor at a convenient time.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q17. I was too busy to make time to go to the doctor.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q18. I have too many other things to worry about.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q19. I was worried about what they might find wrong with me.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q20. I was worried about what tests they might want to do.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q21. I didn't feel confident talking about my symptom(s) with the doctor.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q22. I've had a bad experience at the doctors in the past.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q23. I was worried the doctor wouldn't take my symptom(s) seriously	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5

Q24. I didn't want to be seen as somebody who makes a fuss.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q25. I couldn't afford a doctor visit	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q26. I had difficulties getting transport	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q27. I didn't want to worry family/friends	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q28. Is there anything else that would put you off going to the doctor?	1. Yes 2. No				

Section 4: Triggers contributing to seek medical help

Which of the following particularly prompted you to consult a doctor?

Please, choose to which extent do you agree or disagree with each particular statement below.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q29. Thought the symptom was serious	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q30. Symptom didn't go away.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q31. Symptom got worse.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q32. Partner or family member suggested it.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q33. I saw a TV show/advertisement about my current disease.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Q34. Opportunity to talk during doctor visit for other reason.	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5

Section 5: Colorectal cancer screening tests

The following questions are about Sigmoidoscopy and Colonoscopy. Both tests examine the colon using a narrow, lighted tube that is inserted in the rectum. Sigmoidoscopy only examines the lower part of the colon while Colonoscopy examines the entire colon.

Q35. Before these tests were described, had you ever heard of SIGMOIDOSCOPY?	 Yes No (skip to) Don't know (skip to Q) Refused (skip to Q)
Q36. Have you ever had a SIGMOIDOSCOPY?	 Yes No (skip to) Don't know (skip to Q) Refused (skip to Q)
Q37. How many SIGMOIDOSCOPY exams have you had in the last 10 years?	Record response Don't know Refused
Q38. Why did you have your most recent SIGMOIDOSCOPY?	 It was part of a routine exam or check-up. It was because of a symptom or health problem. It was a follow-up of an earlier abnormal test. Don't know Refused

Now I will ask you about colonoscopy, a test that uses a long tube and examines the entire colon, with the COLONOSCOPY:

Q39. Before these tests were described, had you ever heard of COLONOSCOPY?	 Yes No (skip to) Don't know (skip to Q) Refused (skip to Q)
Q40. Have you ever had a COLONOSCOPY?	 Yes No (skip to) Don't know (skip to Q) Refused (skip to Q)

Q41. How many COLONOSCOPY exams have you had in the last 10 years?	 Record response Don't know Refused
Q42. Why did you have your most recent COLONOSCOPY?	 It was part of a routine exam or check-up. It was because of a symptom or health problem. It was a follow-up of an earlier abnormal test. Don't know Refused

The following questions are about the stool blood test, also known as a fecal occult blood test, a test to check for colon cancer. It is done at home using a set of 3 cards to determine whether the stool contains blood. You smear a sample of your fecal matter or stool on a card from 3 separate bowel movements and return the cards to be tested.

Q43. Before this test was described, had you ever heard of a fecal occult or stool blood test?	 Yes No (skip to) Don't know (skip to Q) Refused (skip to Q)
Q44. Have you ever done a stool blood test using a "home" test kit?	 Yes No (skip to) Don't know (skip to Q) Refused (skip to Q)
Q45. How many home stool blood tests have you done in the last 5 years?	 Record response Don't know Refused
Q46. Why did you do your most recent home stool blood test?	 It was part of a routine exam or check-up. It was because of a symptom or health problem. It was a follow-up of an earlier abnormal test. Don't know

5. Refused

Section 6: Sociodemographic characteristics

The next questions relate to general information about you. It would help us to

know more about the background of the people completing the questionnaire

Q47. Gender of the respondent	DO NOT READ 1. Male 2. Female
Q48. How old are you?	
Q49. What is your marital status?	1. Married 2. Separated/Divorced 3. Widowed 4. Single
Q50. Indicate the highest level of education that you have completed:	 School (less than 10 years) School (10 years) Professional technical education (10-13 years) Institute/University Postgraduate
Q51. Are you employed?	1. Yes 2. Yes, but on maternity/pregnancy leave 3. No 4. Self-employed 5. Seasonal worker or farmer 6. Student 7. Retired 8. Other (specify)
Q52. How would you rate your family's general standard of living?	 Substantially below average Little below average Average Little above average Substantially above average
Q53. What is your Residency?	1. Yerevan 2. Other cities 3. Villages

Q54. Please cross the appropriate statement about your smoking status.	 Ex-smoker Current smoker Non-smoker (never smoked)
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Thank You!

Appendix 2: Questionnaire (Armenian version)

«Առողջական վիձակի գնահատման և բուժօգնության դիմելու ուշացմանը նպաստող պատձառները կոլոռեկտալ քաղցկեղով հիվանդների շրջանում» միանվագ հետազոտության

հարցաթերթիկ

Մաս ն ակ ց ի ID	
Հարցազրուցավարի անունը	
Հարցազրույցի օրը	(o p/wul h u/wwp h)
Հարցազրույցի սկիզբը:	(24 d wdj w \$np d wn)
Հարցազրույցի վերջը:_	(24 ச்யப் ப \$ ந ந பி யம்)

Բաժին 1: Նախազգու շացնող նշաններ

Հետևյալ հարցերը Ձեր այս հիվանդության մասին Ձեր
տեղեկացվածության մասին են։ Դրանք չեն գնահատում Ձեր
հիվանդանալու ռիսկը։ Հարցու պատասխանը կտևի մոտավորապես
40 րոպե։ Սաթեստչ է, մենք ընդհամենը հետաքրքրված ենք
հիվանդության մասին Ձեր պատկերացումներով և
համոզմունքներով, այն պես որ, խնդրում եմ պատասխանեք որքան
կարող եք անկեղծորեն։ Ձեր բոլոր պատասխանները կմնան
գաղտնի։ Եսչեմ կարող պատասխանել Ձեր որևէ հարցի՝
հարցազրույցի ընթացքում, բայց մենք կարող ենք
անդրադառնալ դրանց հարցազրույցի վերջում։

Ձեր կարծիքով,հետևյ ալ ախտանիշները կարո՞ղ են լինել Ձեր

այս հիվանդության նշան.				
Հ1. Հետանցքից արյունային արտադրությունը	1. Այ n 2. Ոչ 3. Չգիտեմ			
Հշ. Որովայնի մշտական ցավը	1. Այ ո 2. Ոչ 3. Չգիտեմ			
[ՊԱՐՉԱԲԱՆՈՒՄ]։ մ շ տակ ան ՝ 3 շ աբ աթ և ավ ե լ ի				
Հ3.Շաբաթներ տևող աղիների գործունեության փոփոխությունը (լուծ, փորկապություն կամ երկուսն էլ)	1. Այ ո 2. Ոչ 3. Չգիտեմ			
[ՊԱՐԶԱԲԱՆՈՒՄ]։ աղիների գործունեության փ վերաբերվում է կղանքին	ու փո խություն ը			
Հ4. Զգացողությունը, որ Ձեր աղիքն ամբողջովին չի դատարկվել սանհանգույցից դուրս գալիս	1. Այ ո 2. Ոչ 3. Չգիտեմ			
Հ5. Արյ ու նը կղանքի մեջ	1. Այ n 2. Ոչ 3. Չգիտեմ			
Հ 6. Ց ավ ը կ ղ ազ ատմ ան ժ ամ ան ակ	1. Այ n 2. Ոչ 3. Չգիտեմ			
Հ7.Շոշ ափվող գոյ ացու թյունը Ձեր որովայնում	1. Այ n 2. Ոչ 3. Չգիտեմ			
Հ8. Հոգնածություըն / սակավարյունությունը	1. Այ n 2. Ոչ 3. Չգիտեմ			
[ՊԱՐՉԱԲԱՆՈՒՄ]։սակավարյունությունը այն վիձակն է,երբ օրգանիզմըչունի բավարար քանակությամբ արյան կարմիր բջիջներ։				
Հ 9. Ան բ աց ատր ե լ ի ք աշ ի կորու ս տը	1. Այ n 2. Ոչ 3. Չգիտեմ			

Բաժին 2։ Ձեր գանգատների մասին։

Հետևյալ հարցերը վերաբերվում են հիվանդության այն նշաններին (ախտանիշներին),որոնք դուք նկատել եք մինչ և Ձեր հիվանդության ախտորոշումը։

Հ ար ց	Պատաս խան ն երի տարբերակներ				
Հ10. Ո՞րն էր Ձեր նկատած առաջին գանգատը կամ ախտանիշը, երբ դուք մտածեցիք որ ինչ-որ բան այն չէ:(Նշեք բոլոր ձիշտ տարբերակները)	1. Աղիների գործունեության փոփոխություն 2. Արյուն ահոսություն հետանցքից /ուղիղ աղուց/ 3. Թիկունքի /մեջքի/ցավ 4. Մարսողության խանգարում կամորովայնի ցավ,որը նորմալ չէր Ձեզ համար 5. Ախորժակի անկում 6. Անբացատրելի քաշի կորուստ 7. Թուլություն կամ հոգնածություն,որը նորմալ չէր Ձեզ համար 8. Անսովոր ինքնազգացողություն 9. Այլ /մանրամասնեք/				

Հետևյալ հարցերը վերաբերվում են Ձեր առաջին գանգատին և նրան,թե ե՞րբ դուք առաջին անգամ դիմեցիք Ձեր բժիշկին դրա պատձառով։

Խնդրում եմ, եթե կարող եք նշեք հստակ օր, իսկ եթե ոչ՝ փորձեք վերհիշել մոտավորապես /օր.՝ քանի՞ ամիս առաջ կամ տարվա ո՞ր եղան ակին/։ Եթե ցանկանում եք, կարող եք օգտվել Ձեր օրագրից կամ օրացույցից, եթե հիմա այն Ձեզ մոտ է։

№	Հ ար ց	Պատաս խան ն երի տարբերակներ		
٤ 11.	ԱԵ՞րբեք դուք առաջին անգամ նկատել գանգատը,	/		

որը դու ք ն շ ե ց ի ք ։	օր/ամիս/տարի ենթադրեք /3 ամիս առաջ, հունիսին/
ԲԵ՞րբեք առաջին անգամ դիմել բժիշկի։	/ h wú o p/wul h u/wwp h
ԳԽաչ դրեք,եթե հիվանդը չի դիմել բժիշկի այ դգանգատի պատձառով։	

Բաժին 3: Խոչընդոտներ բժշկական օգնություն փնտրելիս

Որքանո՞վ եք համաձայն,որ հետևյալ պատմատները խանգարել են Ձեզ՝ հնարավորինս վաղ դիմել բժշկի։

	Մի ան գա -մ այ ն հ ամ ա ձ այ ն ե մ	Համա- ձայն եմ	Πչ Համա- ձայն եմ,ոչ էլ ոչ	Համա- ձայն չեմ	Բոլովի ն համա- ձայն չեմ
Հ 12. Ան հարմար է ի զգում բժշկի հետ հետքննարկել գանգատներս։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ13. Ան հան գ ս տան ու մ Է ի , որ ավ ե լ որդ տե ղ ը կ ծ ախս ե մ բ ժ շ կ ի ժ ամ ան ակ ը ։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ14. Դժվարանում էի շփվել բժիշկների հետ։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5

Հ15. Դժվար էր տվյալ բժշկի հետ այցի մասին պայ մանավորվելը։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
216. Դժվար էր բժշկի հետ պայ մանավորվելը այ ցելության հարմար ժամի մասին	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ17.Շատ զբ աղված էի՝ ժամանակ գտնելու և բժշկի գնալու համար։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ18. Ես շատայլ ան հանգստանալու բաներունեի։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ19. Վախենում էի, որ կարող են ինչ - որ վատբան գտնել ինձ մոտ։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ20. Վախենում է ի, թե ինչ հետազոտություն ներ կնշանակեն ինձ:	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ21. Դժվարան ու մ էի խոսել բժիշկ/ներ/ի հետ գանգատներիս մասին։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ22. Անցյալում բժիշկների հետ շփման անհաջող փորձեմ ունեել։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ23. Ան հան գ ս տան ո ւ մ Է ի , ո ր բ ժ ի շ կ ն ե ր ը գ ան գ ատն ե ր ս	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5

լուրջ չեն ընդունի։					
Հ24. Չէի ու զու մ, որ մտածեն,որ ես ավելորդ տեղն եմ գանգատվում։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ25. Բժշկի դիմելու հնարավորությու նչունեի։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ26. Բժշկի մոտ գնալու տրանսպորտի հետ կապված դժվարություննե րունեի։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ27.Չէի ուզում,որ ընտանիքս, ընկերներս անհանգստանան։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ28. Կա [°] ինչ-որ այլ բան,որը հետաձգեց Ձեր՝ բժշկի մոտգնալը։	3. U _J n, <i>l</i> 2 <i>l</i> p				

Բաժին 4: Գործոններ որոնք նպաստում են բուժօգնություն փնտրելուն

Մտորև նշվածներից հատկապես ո՞րը դրդեց Ձեզ խորհրդակցել բժշկի հետ։ Խնդրում եմ,ընտրեք՝ ի՞նչ չափով եք համաձայն կամ համաձայն չեք ստորև ներկայացված պնդումներից յուրաքանչյուրին։

			եմ,ոչ էլ՝ ոչ		
Հ 29. Մտած եցի, որ գանգատներս լուրջ են։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ30. Գան գ ատն եր ս չ է ի ն անցնու մ ։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ31. Գան գ ատն ե ր ս է՛լ ավ ե լ ի վ ատաց ան ։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ32. Ին ձ առաջ արկեց գործընկերս/ընտա նիքիս անդամը	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ33. Ես տեսա հերուստատեսայի նշոու/գովազդ իմ այս հիվանդության մասին:	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5
Հ34. Հնարավորությու նունեցա խոսել բժշկի հետ՝ նրան այլ առիթով այցելելիս։	□1	□2	□3	□4	□5

Բաժին 5: Սկրինինգայ ին թեստեր

Հետևյալ հարցերը սիգմոիդոսկոպիայի և կոլոնոսկոպիայի մասին են։ Երկու տեստերի համար էլ օգտագործում են նեղ, լույս տվող խողովակ,որը ներմուծվում է աղու մեջ։
Միգմոիդոսկոպիայի միջոցով զննվում է միայն հաստաղուստորին հատվածը,իսկ կոլոնոսկոպիայի միջոցով՝ ամբողջ հաստաղին։

235. Նախքան այս թեստերի նկարագրումը, երբևէ լսե՞լ էիք սիգմոիդոսկոպիայի մասին։	1. Այ ո 2. Ոչ (անցնել Հ40) 3. Չգիտեմ (անցնել Հ40) 4. Հրաժարվում եմ պատասխանել (անցնել Հ40)
Հ36. Երբևիցե անցե՞լ եք սիգմոիդոսկոպիա։	1. Այ ո 2. Ոչ (անցնել Հ39) 3. Չգիտեմ (անցնել Հ39) 4. Հրաժարվում եմ պատասխանել (անցնել Հ39)
Հ37. Սիգմոիդոսկոպիայով բանի՝ հետազոտություն եր ունեցել անցած տասը տարում։	1. <i>Նշ ե ք</i>
Հ38. Ինչ ո՞ւ եք անցել Ձեր վերջ ին սիգմոիդոսկոպիայով հետազոտությունը։	1. Դասովորական հետազոտության կամստուգման մաս էր կազմում։ 2. Գանգատի կամ առողջական խնդրի պատձառով։ 3. Ավելի վաղացկացրած թեստի վատարդյունքներին հաջորդող կրկնակի հետազոտություն էր 4. Չգիտեմ 5. Հրաժարվում եմ պատասխանել

Հաջորդ հարցերը կոլոնոսկոպիայ ի մասին են (այ ն թեստի,որի ժամանակ երկար, ձկվող խողովակով զննում են ամբողջ հաստ աղին)։

Հ39. Նախկինում երբևիցե լսե՞լ էիք կոլոսկոպիայ ի մասին։	1. Այ ո 2. Ոչ (անցնել Հ44) 3. Չգիտեմ (անցնել Հ44) 4. Հրաժարվում եմ պատասխանել (անցնել Հ44)
Հ40. Երբևիցե անցե՞լ եք կոլոսկոպիա։	1. Այ ո 2. Ոչ (անցնել Հ44) 3. Չգիտեմ (անցնել Հ44)

	4. Հրաժարվում եմ պատասխանել (անցնել Հ44)
Հ41. Կոլոսկոպիայի քանի՞ հետազոտություն եք ունեցել անցած տասը տարում։	1. Նշել պատաս խան ը 2. Չգիտեմ 3. Հրաժարվում եմ պատաս խան ել
Հ42. Ինչ ո՞ւ եք անցել Ձեր վերջին կոլոսկոպիայով հետազոտությունը։	 Դասովորական հետազոտության կամստուգման մաս էր կազմում։ Գանգատի կամառողջական ինդրի պատմառով։ Ավելի վաղացկացրած թեստի վատարդյունքներին հաջորդող կրկնակի հետազոտություն էր Չգիտեմ Հրաժարվում եմ պատասիանել

Հետևյալ հարցերը կղանքում թաքնված արյան հայտնաբերման թեստերի մասին են։

Հ43. Նախկինում երբևիցե լսե՞լ էիք կղանքում թաքնված արյան հայտնաբերման թեստի մասին։	1. Այ ո 2. Ոչ (անցնել Հ48) 3. Չգիտեմ (անցնել Հ48) 4. Հրաժարվում եմ պատասխանել (անցնել Հ48)
Հ44. Երբ և իցե հան ձնե՞լ եք կղանքը՝ թաքնված արյան համար,թեստը։	1. Այ ո 2. Ոչ (անցնել Հ48) 3. Չգիտեմ (անցնել Հ48) 4. Հրաժարվում եմ պատասխանել (անցնել Հ48)
Հ45. Թաքնված արյան համար կղանքի քա՞նի թեստեք հանձնել անցած տասը տարում։	1. Նշել պատաս խան ր 2. Չգի տե մ 3. Հրաժարվու մ ե մ պատաս խան ել
Հ46. Ինչո՞ւ եք անցել Ձեր վերջին կղանքի թեստը՝ թաքնված արյան համար։	1. Դասովորական հետազոտության կամստուգման մաս էր կազմում։ 2. Գանգատի կամառողջական խնդրի պատմառով։

3. Ավելի վաղ ացկացրած թեստի վատարդյունքներին հաջորդող կրկնակի հետազոտություն էր
4. Չգիտեմ
5. Հրաժարվում եմ պատասխանել

Բաժին 6: Ձեր մասին

Հաջորդ հարցերը Ձեր մասին ընդհանուր տեղեկություններ ստանալու համար են։

Հ ար ց	Պատաս խան ն երի տարբերակներ	
Հ 47. Սե ո <i>(չ կ ար դ ալ)</i>	1. Ար ակ ան 2. Իգ ակ ան	
Հ48. Ո՞րն է Ձեր ծննդյան թիվը։		
Հ49. Ինչ պիսի՞ն է ձեր ամուսն ական կարգավի ձակը ներկայումս։	1. Չամուսնացած 2. Ամուսնացած 3. Այրի 4. Ամուսնալուծված	
Հ50. Ի՞ նչ կրթություն ունեք։	1. Դպրոց (9 տարի կամ ավելի քիչ) 2. Դպրոց (10-ից 12 տարի) 3. Միջն ակարգ մասնագիտական 4. Ինստիտուտ/Համալսարան 5. Հետդիպլոմային	
Հ51. Ներկայումս աշխատու՞մ եք։	1. Աշ խատում եմ (աշ խատան ք հ ամ ար եք ն ան Ձեր ս ե փակ ան գ ործ ը, հ ող ագ ործ ու թյ ու ն ը ն ար տագ ն ա աշ խատան ք ը (ու ր ի շ եր կ իր մ եկ ն ել ը աշ խատել ու ն պատակ ով)։ 2. Չեմ աշ խատում 3. Ու ս ան ող եմ 4. Թոշ ակ առու եմ 5. Այ լ նշ ել	
Հ52. Ինչ պե՞ս կբնութագրեք Ձեր ընտանիքի կենսամակարդակը։	1. Միջինից բավականին ցածր 2. Միջինից մի փոքր ցածր 3. Միջին 4. Միջինից մի փոքր բարձր	

(៦2៤p ៤p ឃ ៦ ៤៤៤ ឃុយហយម ស្រយ់)	5. Միջինից բավականին բարձր
Հ53. Ո՞րն է Ձեր բնակության վայրը։	1. Եր և ան 2. Այ լ ք աղ աք 3. Գյ ու ղ
Հ54. Դուք ծ խո՞ղ եք։	1.Ծխել եմ նախկինում 2.Ծխում եմ ներկայ ումս 3.Երբեք չեմ ծխել

Շնորհակալություն

Appendix 3: Journal form

Code results

- 1. Completed interview
- 2. Refused to participate
- 3. Interview is scheduled
- 4. Ineligible

ID	Patient	At-pt 1	At-pt 2	At-pt 3	Reason of Refusal
	Name/Surname				

Appendix 4: Record Review Form

Participant ID			
Patient admission date			
Sex	1. Male 2. Female	1. Male 2. Female	1. Male 2. Female
Age			
Residency	 Yerevan Other cities Villages 	 Yerevan Other cities Villages 	 Yerevan Other cities Villages
Marital status	 Married Separated/Divorced Widowed Single 	 Married Separated/Divorced Widowed Single 	 Married Separated/Divorced Widowed Single
Smok. Status	1. Ex-smoker 2. Current smoker 3. Non-smoker (never smoked)	1. Ex-smoker 2. Current smoker 3. Non-smoker (never smoked)	1. Ex-smoker 2. Current smoker 3. Non-smoker (never smoked)
AJCC stage	1. 0 2. I 3. II 4. III 5. IV	1. 0 2. I 3. II 4. III 5. IV	1. 0 2. I 3. II 4. III 5. IV
Comorbidities			

Appendix 5: Consent form for CRC patients (English version)

American University Of Armenia

Institutional Review Board #1

Oral Consent Form

Factors Contributing to Appraisal and Help-seeking Delay among Patients with Colorectal

Cancer in Armenia: a Cross-sectional Study

Hello, my name is Nune Karapetyan, and I am a graduate student of the Master of Public Health

program at the American University of Armenia (AUA) and of the Yerevan State Medical

University (YSMU). Turpanjian School of Public Health with the financial support of

Association of European Cancer Leagues is conducting a study to investigate factors that

influence delay in seeking medical help after the onset of disease symptoms among patients with

colorectal conditions. Physicians of this health care facility referred me to you among a number

of patients with colorectal conditions passing treatment in this department.

I am inviting you to participate in this interview because you currently receive treatment in this

(name it) department of this hospital (name the hospital). Have you been diagnosed within recent

6 months?

If yes, continue.

If no, finish the survey.

Participating in the study involves answering questions during the interview. We can arrange the

place and time for the interview that would be most convenient for you. The information you

provide is confidential and will be used only for this study. Participation in this study is

voluntary. There is no penalty if you refuse to participate in this study. Their decision to

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participating or not will have absolutely no influence on your treatment process. You can skip any questions you don't want to answer. You can stop the interview at any moment you want. All the information provided by you will be summarized with the hundreds of other patients' data and will not include any identifying information about you. Moreover, only the research team, including myself and my two supervisors will have access to the data provided by you and other participants. The interview process will take around 35 minutes. Participation in this study includes only this survey and we will not contact you again.

By the end of the interview, I can suggest you participating in a ten-minute educational session on healthy diet and lifestyle for those who passed colorectal surgery. This will allow you to regulate your bowel habits through diet and minimize the occurrence of diarrhea/constipation. Also, we believe that this survey, will provide us important evidence to better understand the reasons of delayed help-seeking among patients with colorectal conditions in Armenia, and further inform healthcare decision-makers about strategies on shortening this time interval. If you agree to participate, we can start the interview right now or at any time that is acceptable for you. You can always stop the interview, whenever you feel not comfortable or for any other reasons without any consequences for you. If you have any questions regarding this study you can contact my primary advisor

Vahe Khachadourian via email: vkhachadourian@aua.am or call him at 060 612570.

If you feel that you have been hurt by participating in this study, you can contact the Human Participants Protection Administrator of the American University of Armenia Varduhi Hayrumyan by phone +374 60 61 25 61.

Do you agree to participate? Thank you.

Appendix 6: Consent form for CRC patients (Armenian version)

Հայաստանի Ամերիկյան Համալսարան
Գիտահետազոտական էթիկայի թիվ 1 հանձնաժողով
Իրազեկ համաձայնության ձև
«Առողջական վիձակի գնահատման և օգնության դիմելու
ուշացմանը նպաստող պատձառները կոլոռեկտալ քաղցկեղով
հիվանդների շրջանում» խաչաձև հետազոտություն

Բարև Ձեզ, իմ անունը Նունե Կարապետյան է: Ես Հայաստանի
ամերիկյան համալսարանի (ՀԱՀ) Հանրային ատողջապահության
մագիստրատուրայի (ՀԱՄ) երկրորդ կուրսի և Երևանի պետական
բժշկական համալսարանի (ԵՊԲՀ) վեցերորդ կուրսի ուսանող եմ:
Հայաստանի ամերիկյան համալսարանի Թրփանձեան Հանրային
ատողջապահության ֆակուլտետը, Եվրոպական քաղցկեղի լիգաների
ասոցիացիայի ֆինանսավորմամբ կատարում է այս
հետազոտությունը, որի նպատակն է ուսումնասիրել ատաջին
ախտանիշների հայտնվելուց հետո բնակչության՝
բուժօգնության դիմելիության ուշացմանը նպաստող
գործոնները աղիքային հիվանդություններով հիվանդների
շրջանում: Այս բուժհաստատությունում աշխատող բժիշկներն են
ինձուղարկել են Ձեզ մոտ (ինչ պես նաև՝ աղիքային

բուժվում են այս բաժանմունքում): Ձեր հիվանդությունը վերջին վեց ամսվա ընթացքու՞մ է ախտորոշվել: Եթե այո, շարունակեք:

Եթե ոչ, ավարտեք հետազոտությունը:

Համաձայնելով մասնակցել այս հետազոտությանը, Դուք համաձայնում եք պատասխանել հարցերին՝ հարցազրույցի րնթացում: Մենք կարող ենք կազմակերպել հարցագրույցն այն վայրում և ժամին,որն առավել հարմար կլինի Ձեզ համար: Ձեր տրա մադրած ինֆորմացիան գաղտնի է և կօգտագործվի միայն տվյալ հետազոտության շրջանակներում։ Մասնակցությունն այս ուսումն ասիրությանը կամավոր է և հրաժարվելու դեպքում բացասական հետևանքներչեն լինի Ձեզ համար: Ձեր մասնակցության մասին որոշումը բացարձակապես ոչ մի ազդեցություն չի ունենա Ձեր բուժման ընթացքի վրա: Դուք կարող եք բաց թողնել ցանկացած հարց,որին չեք ցանկանա պատասխանել: Դուք կարող եք ցանկացած պահի դադարեցնել հարցագրույցը: Ձեր կողմից տրամադրված ամբողջ տեղեկությունները կամփոփվեն հարյուրավոր այլ հիվանդների տրամադրած տվյալների հետև չեն ներառի Ձեր մասին որև է նույնականացնող տեղեկատվություն:Ընդ որում,Ձեր և մյուս մասնակիցների կողմից տրամադրված տվյայները հասանելի կլինեն միայն հետագոտող թիմի համար,ներատյալ ինձև իմ երկու դեկավարներին: Հարցագրույցը կտևի մոտ 35 րոպե:

Մասնակցությունն այս ուսումնասիրությանը ներատում է միայն այս հարցումը և մենք ձեզ հետ կրկին կապչենք հաստատի: Հարցագրույցի ավարտին, ես կարող եմ Ձեզ առաջարկել մասնակցել տասր րոպեանոց կրթական դասրնթացի՝ առողջ սննդակարգի մասին այն անձանց համար, ովքեր տարել են աղիքների վիրահատություն: Վերջինս թույլ կտա Ձեզ կարգավորել աղիների գործունեությունը սննդակարգի միջոցով և նվագագույնի հասցնել լուծի կա մ փորկապության ատաջացումը: Բացի դրա նից, այս հետազոտությունը մեզ կտրամադրի կարևոր տեղեկատվություն, որը թույլ կտա հասկանալ աղիքային հիվանդություններով անձանց՝ բուժօգնության ուջ դիմել իության պատձառները Հայաստանում և հետագայում տեղեկացնել առողջապահության ոլորտի պաշտոնյաներին, որպեսզի նրանք կարողանան մշակել այս ժամանակահատվածի կրձատման արդյունավետ ռազմավարություն: Եթե դուք համաձայն եք մասնակցել, մենք կարող ենք սկսել հենց հիմա կամ ցան կացած այլ ժամանակ,որը հարմար է Ձեզ համար: Դուք յուրա քանչյուր պահի և ցանկացած պատ ձառով կարող եք դադարեցնել հարցազրույցը՝ առանցորեւ է հետևանք ների Ձեզ համար:Եթե Դուք ունեք որև է հարցայս հետազոտության վերաբերյալ, կարող եք կապհաստատել ուսումնասիրության ղեկավար Վահե Խաչադուրյանի հետ հետև վյալ էլ. հասցեյով՝

vkhachadourian@aua.am, կ ամ զ ան գ ահ ար ե լ և ր ան +374 60 61 25 70 h ե ռ ախո ս ահ ամ ար ո վ :

Եթե Դուք կարծում եք, որ Ձեզ հետ վարվել են սխալ կամ ան հարգալից՝ հարցման ընթացքում, Դուք կարող եք կապնվել Հայ աստանի ամերիկյան համալսարանի էթիկայի հանձնաժողովի համակարգող Վարդուհի Հայրումյանին +37460612561 հեռախոսահամարով։

Դուք համաձա՞յն եք մասնակցել:

Շնորհակալություն: