

TRANSCRIPT OF MEDIA-Newly FDA approved blood test for colorectal cancer screening

Video clips with Dr. Hari Gopakumar, gastroenterologist, OSF Medical Group in Bloomington, Illinois

The new blood test is aimed at improving the screening rate for colon cancer which currently stands at 63% of all eligible people.

"This blood test could bridge some of gap; that is where I see its main role. If for whatever different reason somebody is not able to get one of the approved colon cancer screenings, other than this latest blood-based test, this could be a bridge to offer some form of screening to them." (:24)

Testing a stool sample offers a better way to detect those early-forming cancer cells, and that's what's most important.

"Our goal is to be able to pick up these pre-cancerous lesions way before they even have a chance to become cancer and then treat them because at that stage, it's relatively easy to treat the polyp – you take the polyp out. Nothing after that except maybe a follow up colonoscopy. That is where the difference comes in." (:19)

The test won't likely become a "go-to" until it is improved to increase early cancer cell detection.

"This is probably an early stage and with more effective (technology) where we can match the sensitivity and specificity numbers where they detect what we need to detect – close to the stool-based testing or even better than that – then I see this as the future, but it may be a bit further out." (:19)

Dr. Gopakumar recommends having a conversation with your medical provider to make sure you know your best option.

"Make an informed decision so you get the best test that you can, and it's most appropriate for you so you can feel confident you got what you needed done in an appropriate and efficient way." (:11)