



European Digestive Cancer Days 2017

Prospects and Challenges in Prevention, Screening and Therapy
with pre-conference event 'Implementation of Innovations in Early Detection of Chronic Diseases'

Annex to the Press Release

DIGESTIVE CANCERS: A CHALLENGE FOR HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, SCREENING PROGRAMMES AND ORGANISATION OF CANCER CARE

The Czech Republic is one of the countries with the highest burden of cancer, and colorectal cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers. After lung cancer, colorectal cancer is the 2nd most common cause of cancer deaths, followed by another digestive cancer – pancreatic cancer, which is responsible for about 2,000 deaths in the Czech Republic each year and, unfortunately, this number has been still rising. Furthermore, thousands persons in the Czech Republic die from malignant tumours of the stomach, liver, gallbladder and oesophagus each year. It is therefore obvious that the prevention, early detection and treatment of digestive cancers is a top priority for the public health.

Among the organised cancer screening programmes in the Czech Republic, the colorectal cancer screening programme has the lowest participation rate. In 2013, the screening programme only covered 26.5% of the Czech population of men and women aged over 50. For this reason, the project of personalised invitations of citizens to cancer screening programmes was launched in 2014, with the support from the EU funds. Invitations are sent to citizens who do not participate in cancer screening in the long term. In the period 2014–2016, health insurance companies sent out over 3.7 million invitations to screening examination aimed at an early detection of colorectal cancer. The project has led to a significant increase in colorectal cancer screening coverage, exceeding 32% of the target population in 2015.

The Czech National Coordination Centre for Prevention of Serious Diseases was established within the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic (IHIS) in order to strengthen screening programmes in accordance with the National Action Plan for the Development of Medical Screening Programmes in the Czech Republic. The newly created National Council for the Implementation and Control of Programmes for Early Detection of Diseases, established by the Minister of Health of the Czech Republic, will systematically check the optimisation of the current screening programmes and the introduction of new programmes for an early detection of diseases. Activities of the Czech National Coordination Centre were presented at the conference PreVON 2017 – Programmes of prevention, screening and early diagnosis of serious diseases in the light of current evidence and practical experience, which took place on 25 September 2017 in Prague, one day before the EDCD conference.

The international professional society United European Gastroenterology (UEG), which has promoted the introduction of standardised population-based programmes of colorectal cancer screening in all member states of the EU for many years now, is among the EDCD conference organisers. UEG also calls for more funds to be allocated to pancreatic cancer research, which is currently the 3rd most common cause of cancer deaths in the Czech Republic and, unfortunately, the number of deaths from pancreatic cancer has been still rising. An equal access of all citizens to cancer prevention and treatment is no less important, and the same applies to a high quality of cancer care across Europe.



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Conference organisers: Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic; Institute of Biostatistics and Analyses, Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University; international professional society United European Gastroenterology; Office of Pavel Poc, Member of the European Parliament.

All information about the conference is available at <http://www.cancer-days.eu/>