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“I spoke to my GP…that time … and… I was concerned about the symptoms. I told him that I had seen some blood on my toilet paper and he said… umm… yeah that… since it is fresh blood it could be piles (haemorrhoids) or something.”

Rectal cancer
Mr McGrath

CONSULTATION 1

Diagnosis?
Treatment?
Refer?
Investigation?
Advice?
102 GPs
Mean age: 43
Male 56%
Australian graduates: 70%
Years of GP experience: 11
Place of practice: 90% city
Western Australia: 50%

2308 Vignettes

Mx

Prescription only: 1:8
Investigation only: 2:5
Referral or Referral plus: 1:2

http://tinyurl.com/ptjcatl
60 year old with unexplained iron deficiency anaemia, abdominal pain and right iliac fossa mass.
62 year old several episodes of postmenopausal bleeding

More likely to investigate + refer

Colorectal
Breast, Oesophag, Lung.

More likely to refer
Prostate, Pancreatic, Cervical.

http://tinyurl.com/px4or5s

USS, Full-blood count, Renal function test, Liver function test, Iron studies, Coagulation studies, Pap smear/swab, Urine culture and sensitivity, X-ray, CT, Hysteroscopy
‘lack of reporting culture in primary care compared with acute hospitals… [As such] any analysis will show only a small proportion of incidents in primary care, and from general practice in particular’


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer</th>
<th>Presentation to diagnosis (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All (56)</td>
<td>105 (mean)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastric</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colon</td>
<td>954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovarian</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectal</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostate</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A failure to consider the diagnosis of cancer. "Blinkered" approach in assessing patient.

Inappropriate or incomplete investigation

False-negative investigations

Typical symptoms

1:8

Potential Delay

BMJ open 2015

http://tinyurl.com/odnsf46
http://tinyurl.com/pg7qcwr