

John Kidwell, M.D.

Can you tell us about the kit? Does this replace a colonoscopy?

0:06

This kit does not replace a colonoscopy. This kit tests for blood, microscopic amounts of blood that would be present in your stool that would indicate that either a mass or a polyp could be there. Now, if the kit is positive for this microscopic amount of blood, then we would schedule the individual for a colonoscopy. Because the colonoscopy is the gold standard by which we evaluate the inside of the colon, and rectum and identify any polyps or masses. This kit you would do yearly, colonoscopy is typically more spread out. So it's not the same thing as a colonoscopy, but it helps us know whether the individual needs a colonoscopy or not.

What does the kit include and how do you use it?

0:59

The kit is straightforward and easy to use. It includes biodegradable piece of paper that is placed in the toilet, this receives the stool, and there is a swab in the kit, which you use to swab the top of the stool. This swab is then placed in a packet, which is then placed in another container, which is then mailed to our facility to undergo micro lab testing.

How quickly can people expect results?

1:34

People can expect results fairly quickly, typically, within days to a few weeks, they do have to run the specimen in the micro lab. And so that does take a little bit of time. But these are quick results.

What comes after the results?

1:56

If it's negative, then the individual needs to repeat this process at one year's time. These fit tests are to be done each year if negative. That goes along with the caveat of if in the interim, between that year they develop blood per stool or abdominal pain or other concerning symptoms, they need to talk with their primary care physician. If the FIT test were to be positive, then the next step would be a colonoscopy, which we provide pending a positive test result.

Where can people sign up to receive the kits?

2:41

So in the 15 counties in the southwest region of the Texas panhandle, where we aim to have this project occur, we're going to have multitude of outreach events. And so we'll have information and education on awareness and availability of these kits and the application to get one of them. We will also have through the UMC southwest Cancer Center, we have a focus of individuals, which is kind of our go to cohort to contact in order to get these kits sent out to certain individuals. So we'll have those individuals contact numbers and all of these events and we're going to have information on social media and fliers to pass out at these informational

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sessions. So we're going to have a lot of information and contacts for individuals who think that they need one of these screening tests.

Do people need to have insurance to receive these kits?

4:03

No, they do not. So one of the main focuses of our project is to provide colorectal cancer screening to underserved and uninsured individuals. So these tests will be free to the uninsured individuals.

Anything else to add?

4:25

Dr. Baucom, and myself and Dr. Rahman and everyone else on the team are very excited to try and see an increase in the rate of colorectal cancer screening in this in this highly uninsured and underserved population and hope that we see that screening rank go up and then the consequences of colorectal cancer go down because of increased awareness and prevention.