

Do Prevention Programmes Lead to Better Quality, Availability, and Affordability of Healthcare?

The Case of Colorectal Cancer



What are the potential benefits of prevention?

And why don't we invest in it more?

Healthcare professionals agree that investment in prevention is the best way to improve our healthcare systems. When detecting diseases early, the costs of treatment decrease, the chances of survival increase, and the overall system becomes less saturated by patients whose illness could have been avoided. However, psychological and political factors come into play. Short-term thinking and lack of monetary incentives from insurance companies have constantly prevented investments in prevention programmes.

1

INCREASED AFFORDABILITY

Prevention programmes decrease the costs of treatment.

2

INCREASED AVAILABILITY

Prevention programmes prevent a saturation in the system.

3

INCREASED QUALITY

Prevention programmes increase chances of survival.



Primary Prevention Methods

They include awareness campaigns and taxation.



Secondary Prevention Methods

They include all sorts of medical tests, some more expensive than others, some more invasive than others.

Prevention in times of COVID-19

More than ever, investments in public health that allow for awareness messages and testing have become important.