

## Soy Isoflavone and Bladder Cancer in Japan

Wada et al. \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1371

There is growing evidence suggesting that soy isoflavones play a protective role in the development of cancer. However, few epidemiological studies have investigated the association between soy isoflavone intake and bladder cancer. This prospective study in Japan detected a decreased risk of bladder cancer among men who had higher intakes of total soy and isoflavones, suggesting a protective effect of soy isoflavone intake against bladder cancer in men. This finding by Wada and colleagues on the potential benefit of consuming soy foods against bladder cancer is promising and warrants further studies.

## NCI Efforts to Accelerate Rural Cancer Control Research

Kennedy et al. \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1240

Americans living in rural communities face many challenges when it comes to receiving adequate cancer care. This has resulted in a growing disparity in mortality and incidence for certain cancers in rural areas when compared to their urban counterparts. In order to understand and improve cancer control in rural communities, the NCI conducted an assessment of the current state of research through a progressive series of portfolio analyses, meetings, and funding opportunity announcements. In this commentary, Kennedy and colleagues provide an overview of the NCI's vision for rural cancer control, and detail recommendations stemming from a recently held meeting to advance rural cancer control research. This commentary also serves as an introduction to the *CEBP* Focus on Rural Cancer Control, which contains three additional commentaries and six research articles.

## Determinants for Participation in HPV Self-Sampling

Harder et al. \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1342

Human papillomavirus self-sampling is a promising method to improve cervical cancer screening coverage, but not all routine screening non-attenders accept self-sampling. Harder and colleagues investigated determinants of participating in self-sampling among 21,314 non-attenders in a Danish routine screening program who were invited to order a self-sampling test. Information on socio-demographic, health-related, and lifestyle characteristics were obtained from registries and questionnaires. Basic education, low income, non-Western origin, and being unmarried were associated with lower self-sampling participation. Women with prior schizophrenia and long-term screening non-attenders were less likely to participate. The study highlights that although self-sampling can increase cervical cancer screening coverage, certain population groups may remain unscreened.

## Electronic Alerts and Chronic Hepatitis B Screening

Chak et al. \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1352

The use of alerts and reminders in the electronic health record has led to increased screening for a variety of conditions. However, implementation of screening recommendations for chronic hepatitis B among foreign-born persons at risk has been suboptimal. Chak and colleagues randomized patients at risk for chronic hepatitis B to receive an electronic medical alert reminding primary care physicians to screen for the virus during clinic visits. The study shows that electronic alerts increase screening for chronic hepatitis B—a condition known to cause liver cancer in affected patients. In the age of digital medicine, the study has broad implications for mass screening of patients at risk for this chronic viral infection.

# Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention

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## Highlights of This Issue

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