

Metro Atlanta Gastroenterology Benchmarks for Quality of Colonoscopy 2015

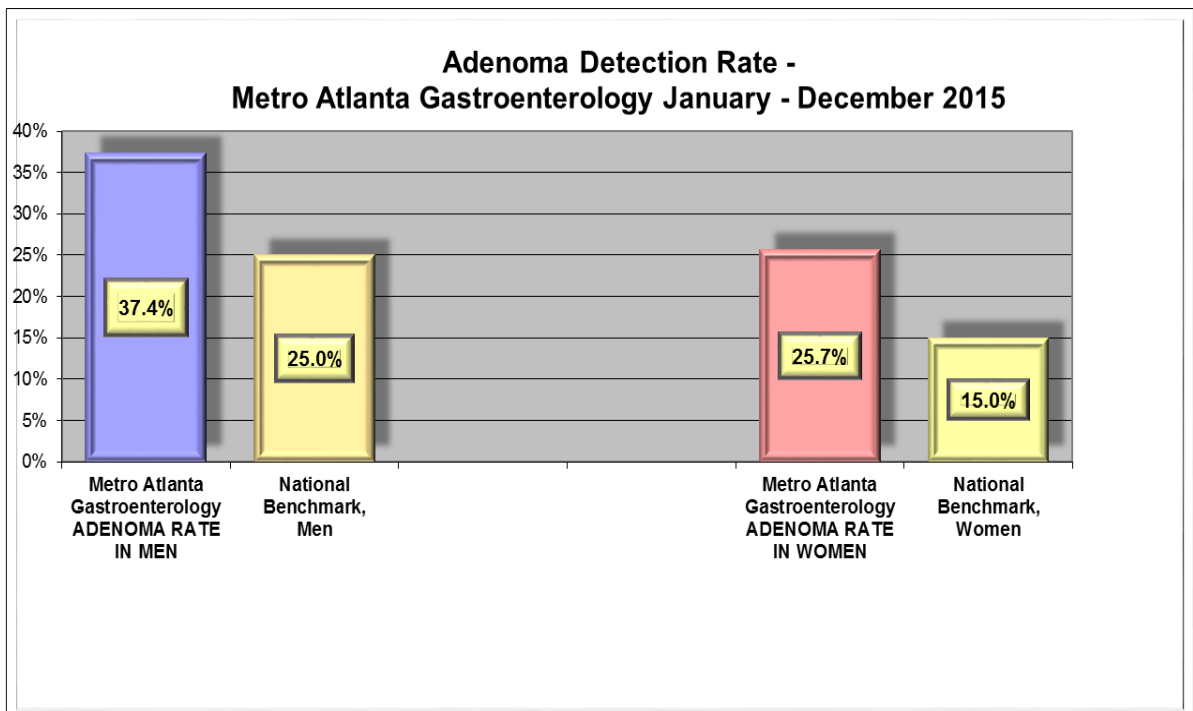
In recent years, there has been increased awareness of the importance of quality in screening colonoscopy. Measuring and reporting three generally accepted benchmarks helps make sure Metro Atlanta Gastroenterology (MAG) patients are receiving the highest quality colonoscopies. Below, we have collected our colonoscopy data regarding these benchmarks, compared them to national standards and shown them in graphical form.

1. Adenoma Detection Rate

This is the percent of screening colonoscopies where one or more adenomas (a polyp with precancerous potential) were detected and removed. Removal of these polyps significantly reduces a patient's chance of developing colon cancer. It is considered the most important quality indicator and in a high-quality screening program, this rate should be at least 25% for men and 15% for women.

From January through December 2015, the rates of the physicians at Metro Atlanta Gastroenterology were 37.4 % for men and 25.7% for women. (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Percent of MAG patients, by gender, where screening colonoscopy detected at least one adenoma (January through December 2015) vs. the National Benchmark.

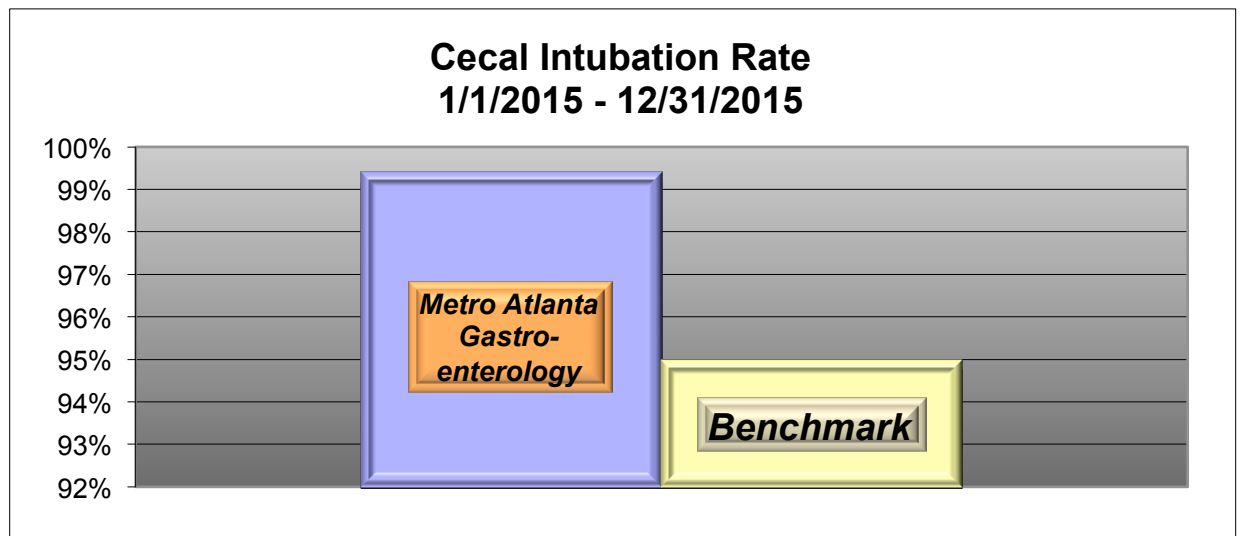


2. Cecal Intubation Rate

This benchmark measures the percent of colonoscopies where the physician advanced the colonoscope all the way to the cecum (the first part of the colon). Reaching the cecum with the colonoscope is required for a complete, high-quality exam. In a high-quality screening program, this rate should be at least 95%.

In sample from our past year of exams (January through December 2015), the overall rate for the physicians at Metro Atlanta Gastroenterology was 99.4%. (Figure 2)

Figure 2. Percent of MAG colonoscopies (January through December 2015) where cecum was reached vs. the National Benchmark.



3. Colonoscopy Withdrawal Time

This quality indicator measures the average time spent examining the colon, as the colonoscopy is removed (after reaching the cecum). There is strong evidence that taking more time to evaluate the colon will lead to more adenomas detected and an overall higher quality exam. Studies suggest that Gastroenterologists should spend a minimum average of 6 minutes examining the colon.

In sample from our past year of exams (January through December 2015), the overall average time spent on colonoscopy withdrawal for the physicians at Metro Atlanta Gastroenterology was 12.6 minutes. (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Average MAG Colonoscopy Withdrawal Time (January through December 2015) vs. the National Benchmark.

