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## National guidelines for cancer prevention in Serbia

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National guidelines for cancer prevention were designed for the primary health care doctors in Serbia. They were developed by the Cancer prevention workgroup, appointed by the Republic committee for development and implementation of guidelines of the Ministry of Health of Serbia. Development of guidelines was part of the project Support to Public Health Development in Serbia, financed by the European Agency for Reconstruction and managed by EPOS. Guidelines consist of recommendations for cancer primary prevention and opportunistic screening for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers. Guidelines are evidence-based; level of evidence and strength of recommendation are defined for each suggested activity. They are also based on the current epidemiological situation in Serbia and the health-care system organization. For breast cancer, basic recommendation for women without high risk or symptoms is mammography every two years for women aged 50 to 70; if mammography is performed in women aged 40 to 49, the interval should be shorter i.e. 18 months. Monthly breast self-exam since the age of 30 and yearly clinical breast examination since the age of 40 increase breast cancer awareness and increase sensitivity of mammographic screening. For cervical cancer screening, women should begin with Pap tests three years after becoming sexually active. After three normal Pap tests taken once a year, the interval can be prolonged to 2 or 3 years. After the age of 65, if woman had regular Pap tests, screening can be stopped. For colorectal cancer screening, fecal occult blood test (FOBT) once a year is recommended to a general population without risk factors or symptoms after the age of 50. Patients with a positive test should be sent to colonoscopy. These guidelines are the first official document related specifically to cancer prevention on the national level. It is expected that the comprehensive strategy for cancer prevention will be developed this year and that it would enable implementation of activities recommended by the guidelines.