Cancer Prevention Europe
Early Career Network

Cancer Prevention Europe

Scientific Webinar Series

The risks of risk-based cancer screening: Are we underestimating its complexity?

Risk-based early detection is the buzzword of the moment. It is encouraged by the updated EU Council Recommendation on cancer screening (2022) and viewed by many as the future of cancer screening. The idea of focusing screening on individuals at higher risk seems immediately obvious and is likely the only justifiable approach for less common cancers. Introducing risk-based elements (beyond setting age limits) is also proposed for established screening programs. The hope: The same or even greater effectiveness can be achieved while reducing the harms of screening by avoiding unnecessary examinations. As promising as it sounds, the complexity of this approach is often underestimated. The talk will systematically address conceptual pitfalls and challenges of risk-based cancer screening, which have received little attention to date but should be incorporated into future research on this topic so that a mature concept can be achieved.

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19 November 2026

12:00 - 13:00

The European Network for Cancer Prevention

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Ulrike Haug is a professor at the University of Bremen, is deputy scientific director of the Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology - BIPS and heads the department Clinical Epidemiology at BIPS. She has extensive expertise in research on cancer screening and has conducted multiple types of studies in this field, including target trial emulations to evaluate the German breast and colorectal cancer screening program. She is currently leading three major projects on risk-based cancer screening, with a particular focus on the methodological aspects of this topic. She is a member of national and international committees in the field of cancer prevention and screening, e.g. of the National Decade Against Cancer, the National Cancer Plan and the World Endoscopy Organization.

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