The effect of education on health behaviour after screening for colorectal cancer

Presenter: Professor Tor Iversen
Date: Wednesday 12 June 2019
Time: 12.00pm - 1.00pm
Venue: Room H.921 Caulfield campus

Abstract
We study the changes in demand for health that occur after cancer screening, and more specifically, whether these changes in demand vary with human capital. The analysis is based on data from a randomized controlled screening trial in Norway running from 1999 to 2001. The dataset covers the period 1997 to 2015 and consists of approximately 100,000 individuals born between 1935 and 1950, of whom 21,000 were invited to participate in a once only screening with sigmoidoscopy.

We estimate whether the interaction between screening and education changes the utilization of health care for lifestyle-related diseases. In particular, we estimate hazard rates from various parametric survival models. We divide the sample into invited and control groups, to see if there are changes in lifestyle-related utilization in an intention-to-treat setting.

We find that for individuals with a low level of education the incidence of lifestyle-related diseases in the screening group is greater than in the control group over the 15-year period following the screening year. We find no such difference for individuals with university education.

Presenter
Tor Iversen is Professor in Health Economics at the Department of Health Management and Health Economics, University of Oslo, Norway. He was one of the initiators of the Health Economics Research Program at the University of Oslo (HERO). Iversen's primary research interest is the impact of market conditions and economic instruments in the health sector. He has published papers on waiting times and other non-price rationing mechanisms in health care, economic incentives for primary care physicians, comparison of health systems, long-term care for the elderly, population screening and other health economic topics.

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