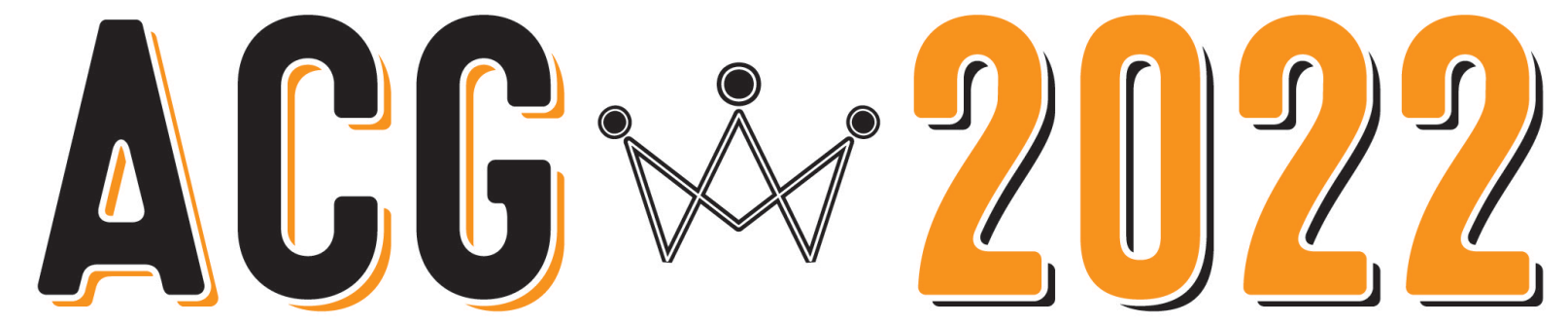


Incidence of Follow up Colonoscopy after Acute Diverticulitis: A Single Center Experience



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Background

- Acute diverticulitis (AD) is the third most common inpatient gastrointestinal (GI) diagnosis in the United States.
- Guidelines recommend a follow-up colonoscopy in complicated diverticulitis and after first episode of uncomplicated AD to rule out underlying adenoma and colorectal cancer.
- We conducted a retrospective study to assess our institution's adherence to guidelines by determining the incidence of follow-up colonoscopies in patients with AD.

Methods

- We conducted a retrospective chart review of all adult patients presenting to Allegheny Health Network with AD.
- Demographic details, imaging, treatment, discharge, and follow-up data were collected.
- Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test were used for categorical variables.
- P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

- We included 489 patients with age 64.06 ± 14.82 years, comprising 222/489 (45.03%) males in our study.
- Left-sided diverticulitis was most common 459/489 (93.9%), followed by right sided 20/489 (4.1%) and bilateral 6/489 (1.2%).
- 272/485 (56.1%) had complicated diverticulitis.
- Follow-up colonoscopy was done in 82/213 (38.5%) and 109/272 (51.1%) in uncomplicated and complicated diverticulitis respectively.
- Colonoscopy was performed in 50/213 (23.5%) and 73/272 (26.8%) in uncomplicated and complicated diverticulitis groups respectively for screening of colorectal cancer after the episode of diverticulitis.
- Further analysis showed that odds of GI follow-up were 3.6 times greater for patients with a PCP follow-up than without a PCP follow-up (95% CI:1.93-6.59).
- Patients were 1.7 times more likely to have a colonoscopy follow-up if they had a PCP follow-up (95% CI:1.18-2.50).

Conclusions

- **Our study shows low adherence to guidelines for follow-up colonoscopy after the episode of acute diverticulitis especially among private hospitalists and surgical teams.**
- This allows for the opportunity to further educate medicine providers, which can improve early diagnostic rates of adenoma and colorectal carcinoma in this population.

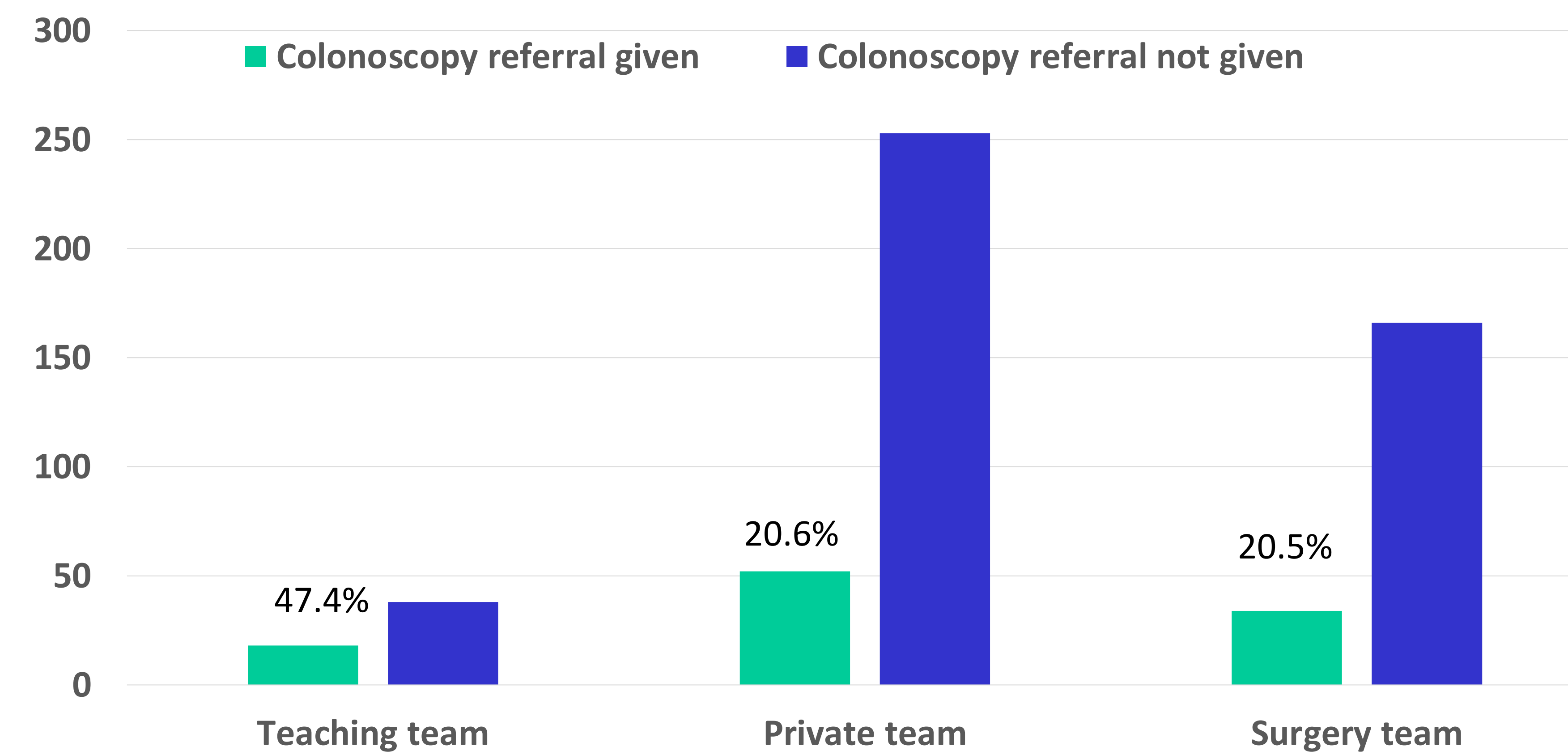
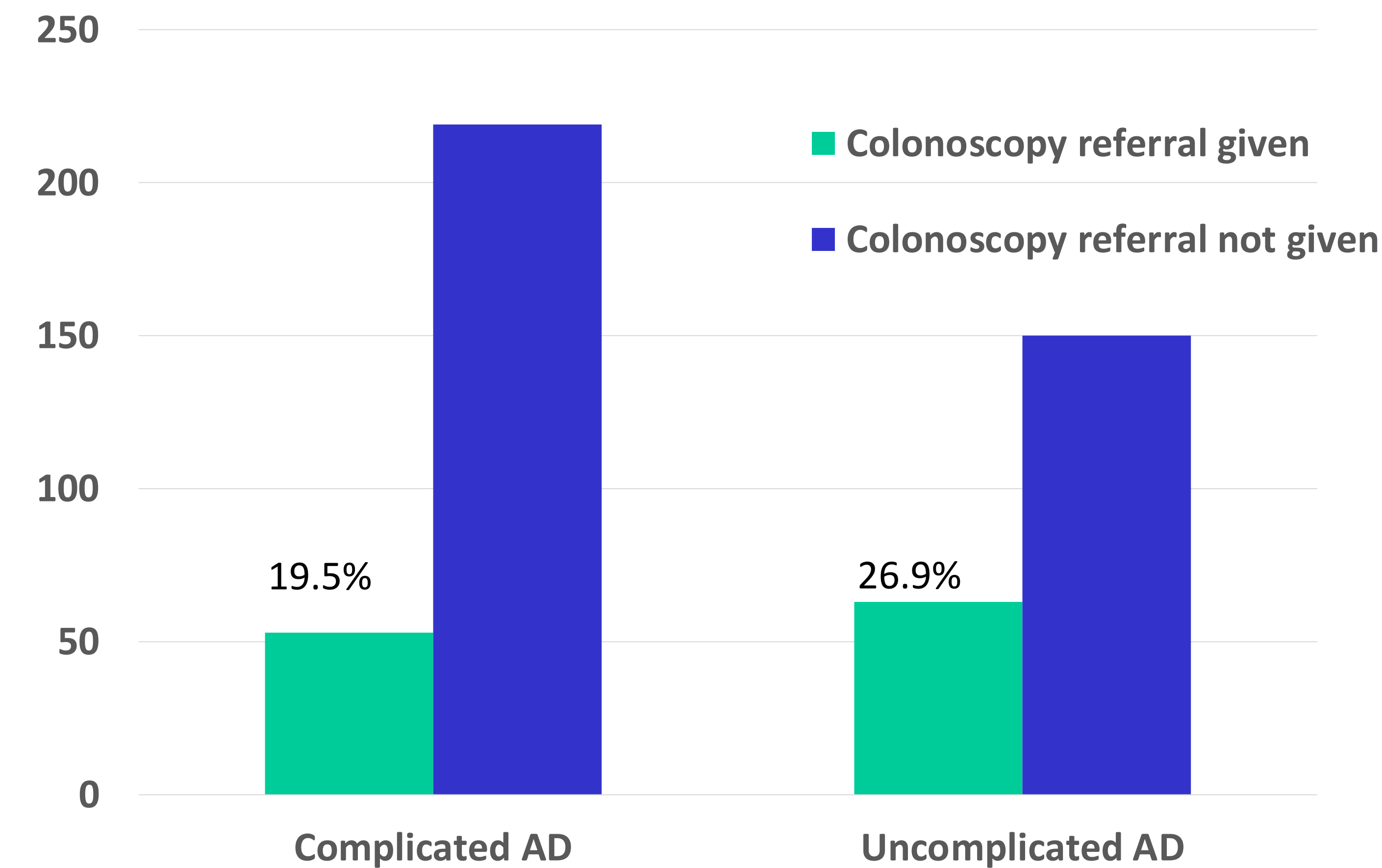


Figure showing referral to colonoscopy in complicated and uncomplicated diverticulitis (upper) Teaching, Private & Surgical Teams (lower)