To screen or not to screen: is it possible to reconcile the individual and population perspectives on screening?

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Individual and population perspectives on screening are perceived as opposing the interest of patients and the population. The former is based on the experience of patients with missed opportunities. The latter addresses acceptability and possible negative impact, including for people without the disorder. Known possible obstacles to screening and the role of randomized trials and simulation in screening evaluation will be discussed. Reconciling both perspectives is possible, with an evidence-based medicine and policy perspective, by considering that hypotheses underlying the former are prerequisites for the latter.

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