UK Screening Portal

UK National Screening Committee

Mini Screening Masterclass 2010

To screen or not to screen?

RCM Conference, Nov 2010, Manchester

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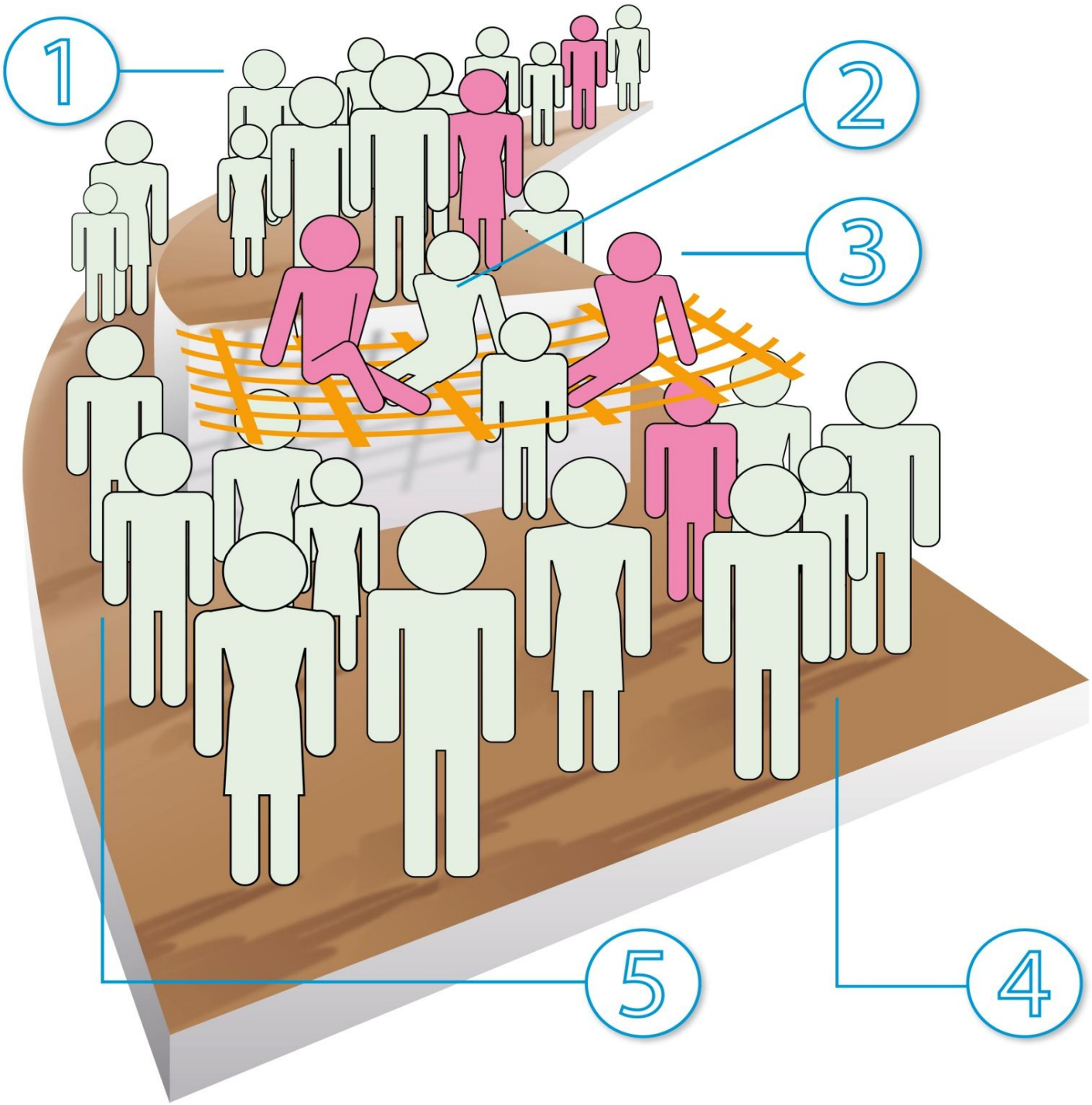
A GCSE student asks you what screening is – think of a suitable sentence

Answer should have some of the following; screening test/s, offered to a population of well/healthy/apparently healthy/no disease people to determine their risk of getting the disease/condition before it affects/harms them/early intervention will make a difference

Should not include; prevention/cure/diagnosis

What diseases should we screen for?

- Important health problems
- Well defined diseases
- Natural history of the disease is known
- Detectable pre-clinical stage
- Conditions not screened for – policy decisions and reviews at www.screening.nhs.uk



1. These people are offered the screening test

2. These people have decided to have the screening test

3. People caught in the screening sieve have been identified as possibly having the condition being screened for and will therefore be offered further investigations

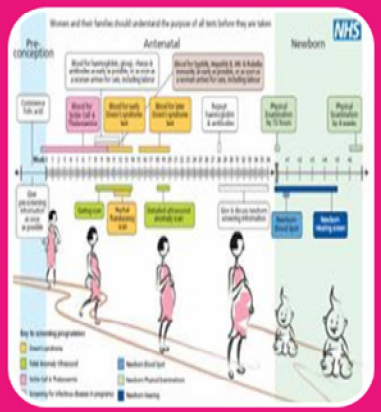
   (only the person in pink actually has the condition and has been correctly identified, the others are unaffected by the condition and are termed false positive results)

4. *These people have all passed through the screening sieve and identified as not being at risk of the condition being screened for and will therefore not be offered further investigations*

   (the person in pink does have the condition being screened for and has slipped through the screening net unidentified – this is termed a 'false negative result')

5. Some people may decide not to have the screening test

Key Messages About NHS Screening



Screening is a pathway not just a test: A screening programme supports people throughout the process, from inviting people to be screened to referring anyone who is found to have a particular condition for treatment and advice.

Screening has to improve outcome: A national programme is established only if certain conditions are met, including; an accurate & acceptable screening test, provision of treatment & advice for people found to have a condition, & making sure the screening programme **does more good than harm to those screened**

Different Kinds of Testing
Match the investigation on the left to the process on the right

1. Man aged 60 having a chest X-ray because he noticed blood in his sputum	A. Communicable disease control
2. Man aged 55 having an ECG prior to an anaesthetic for a routine operation	C. Screening but not part of a managed screening programme
3. Man aged 20 having a heaf test because his flat mate has been diagnosed with TB	B. Pre-anaesthetic safety check
4. Man aged 50 having a PSA test because a friend has just been diagnosed with prostate cancer	D. Cancer screening programme
5. A well woman, aged 65, having a routine mammography	E. Newborn Blood spot screening programme
6. Man aged 48 having a liver function test prior to starting drug treatment that carries a risk of liver toxicity	F. Diagnosis
7. Newborn baby having a heelprick test to check for hypothyroidism	G. Protection of others
8. Man aged 30 having a vision test to renew his HGV licence	H. Baseline measurement to monitor toxicity

ANSWERS

1. Man aged 60 having a chest X-ray because he noticed blood in his sputum	F. Diagnosis
2. Man aged 55 having an ECG prior to an anaesthetic for a routine operation	B. Pre-anaesthetic safety check
3. Man aged 20 having a heaf test because his flat mate has just been diagnosed with TB	A. Communicable disease control
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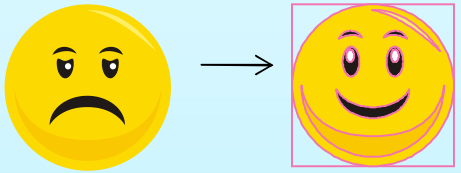
- What new screening programmes/tests have you encountered in your practice?
- What's the difference between an NHS screening test and a private one?
- Lets unpack some of the consequences of screening now using a 2x2 table to look at screening for localised breast cancer

+ve

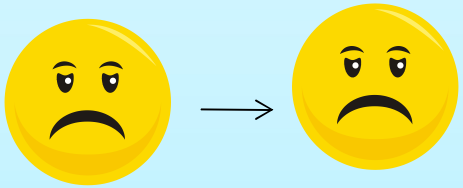
True positives

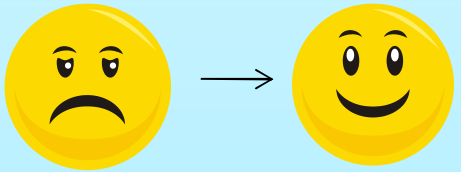
Truth

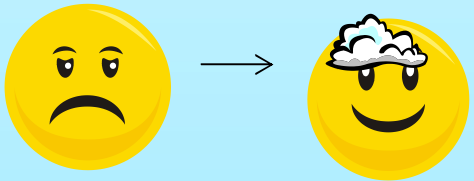
- ve



The good of screening



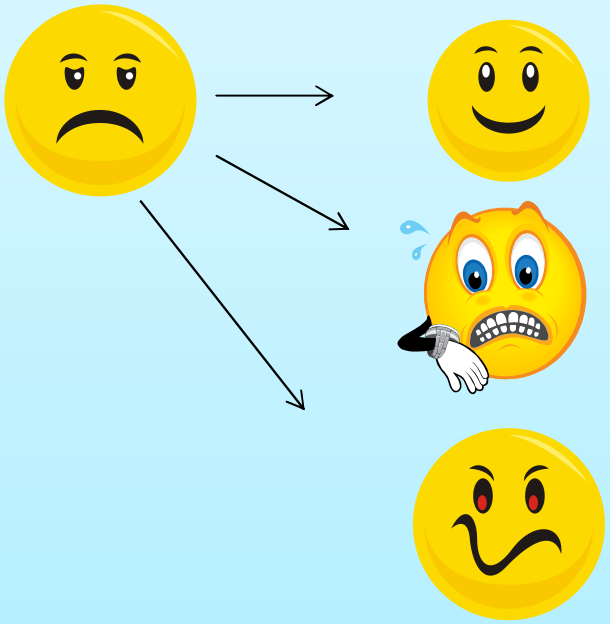


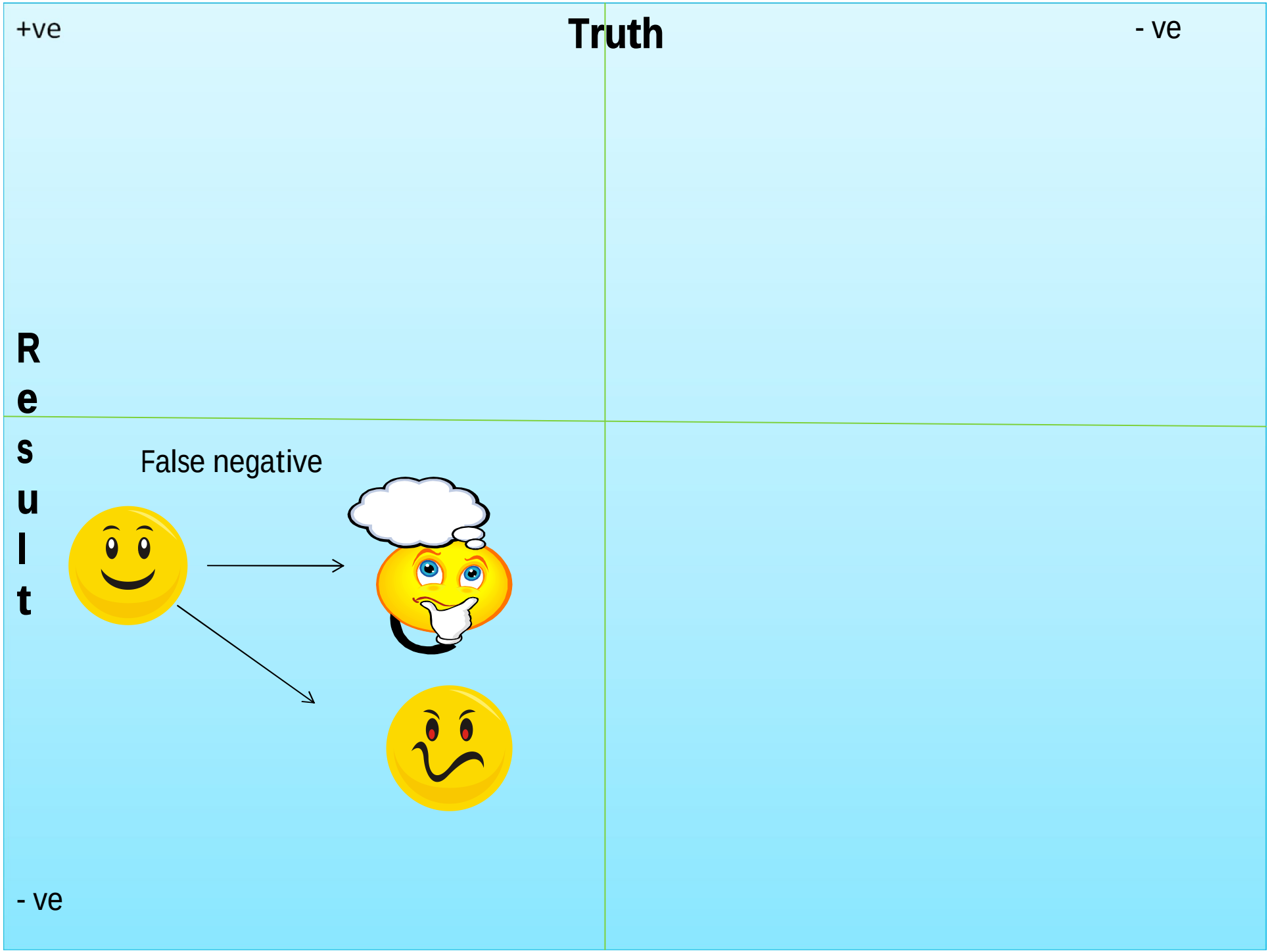


The balance of good vs harm

Result

- ve

	Truth	
		- ve
+ve		False Positives 
Result		
- ve		


+ve
Truth
- ve
Result
False negative
- ve

	Truth	
	+ve	- ve
Result		
	- ve	True negatives

- Thank you for taking part

- Acknowledgements go to Dr Angela Raffle for extracts of the screening master class. Full class is available at http://www.healthknowledge.org.uk/interactive-learning/screening

- Please visit www.screening.nhs.uk for more information and to download all our training material