

## ART OF MEDICINE

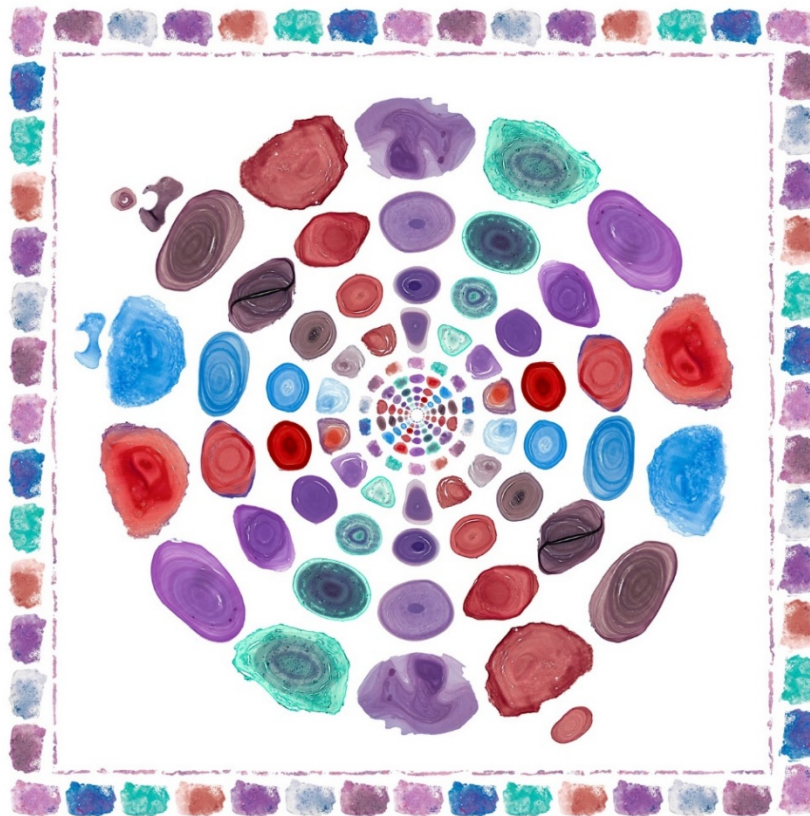
### Risks, Benefits, and Conundrums of Cancer Screening

Nick Love, PhD

#### Abstract

This graphic narrative is a fictional case report illustrated using paint pens and histological micrographs collaged with Adobe Illustrator. The story of Mr P and his physician recapitulates an ethical dilemma presented by cancer screening: screening can save lives, but it also generates diagnostic morbidity and incurs costs.

Figure. Detail from *Corpora Amylacea*



([Click here](#) to view entire the entire graphic narrative.)

Media

Oil and acrylic paint pencils on paper; micrographs of histologically stained tissue captured using SPOT software and collaged with Adobe Illustrator.

### Caption

This graphic narrative is drawn from the artist's experience working in a department of pathology. Drawing on the aesthetic beauty of histologically stained tissue, the graphic relates a story of uncertainty in medicine, represents risk of diagnostic morbidity, and visually considers [psychological burdens](#) of disease. The illustrations and micrograph collages aim to provoke a viewer's consideration of risks, benefits, and costs of cancer screening and workup techniques while the precision of the digital images contrasts with the imprecision of analog histological staining techniques.

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#### Editor's Note

This is the winning artwork of the 2019 John Conley Art of Medicine Contest.

#### Citation

*AMA J Ethics*. 2020;22(2):E164-165.

#### DOI

10.1001/amajethics.2020.164.

#### Conflict of Interest Disclosure

The author(s) had no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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ISSN 2376-6980