

Screening for Colorectal Cancer

It's the
Right
Choice

Of cancers that affect both men and women,
colorectal (colon) cancer is the

#2

cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.

But it doesn't have to be.

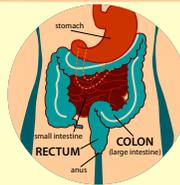
Screening tests can find this cancer
early, when treatment works best.

28 million
Americans are not
up-to-date on screening.

About
51,000 people
die from colorectal cancer
each year.



Screening can find
polyps (abnormal growths)
so they can be removed
before turning into cancer.



Recommended screening
could prevent at least
60%
of these deaths!

Screening should start at **50**
and continue until age **75**
for most men and women.

There's More Than One Test. You Have a Choice!

High-sensitivity fecal occult blood test (FOBT):

You do this test at home and send stool
samples to a doctor's office or lab.

Once a
year

Every 5
years

with FOBT
every 3
years

Flexible sigmoidoscopy

The doctor looks for polyps or cancer in
the rectum and lower third of the colon.

Colonoscopy

The doctor looks for polyps or cancer
in the rectum and the entire colon.

every 10
years

Colon cancer or polyps may not
cause symptoms, especially early on.

Don't wait for symptoms before you get screened!

Talk to your doctor if you or a close relative have:

- inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, or ulcerative colitis.
- A personal or family history of colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps.
- A genetic syndrome such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome).

If you have any of these risks, you may
need to start screening before age 50
and be tested more often than other people.



For more information:

www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/