

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

What is colorectal cancer?

It is cancer of the large intestines (bowels).

What is a screening test?

Screening tests are done to look for a disease before symptoms develop.

Why do screening tests?

Diseases found before symptoms develop usually are easier to treat. The goal is to find cancers before they have spread to other parts of the body.

Who gets colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is more common in those over 50 years of age.

Other risk factors for colorectal cancer are; diet high in fat, family history of colon cancer, personal history of colon polyp, personal or family history of inflammatory bowel disease.

When should I get my colon cancer screen?

Most people are screened for colon cancer beginning at the age of fifty. You should discuss this with your provider to see if you need earlier screening.

What will I have to do?

There are several different screens available. They include mailing a sample of stool back to your provider, having an x-ray, and having a small tube placed in your rectum with a provider looking directly at the inside of your intestines.

What are the symptoms of colon cancer?

Symptoms of colon cancer may include blood in your stools, narrower stools, a change in your normal bowel habits, and possibly general abdominal or stomach discomfort.

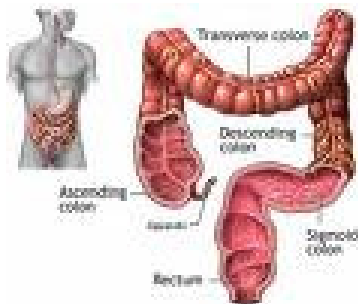


Image from: <http://www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/just-the-facts/what-cancer/>