

Colorectal Cancer Screening

Colorectal cancer is a cancer that happens in the colon or rectum. Sometimes it is called colon cancer, for short. The colon is the large intestine. The rectum is the path that joins the colon to the anus. Sometimes abnormal growths form in the colon or rectum. These growths are called polyps. Over time, some polyps may turn into cancer.

Symptoms

Polyps and colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms. This may happen especially at first. Someone could have it and not know it. That is why getting screened regularly for colorectal cancer is so important.

If you have symptoms, they may be:

- Blood in or on your stool.
- Stomach pain, aches, or cramps that don't go away.
- Losing weight and you don't know why.

Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests

- **Stool Tests** - Uses the chemical guaiac to find blood in the stool. It is done once a year.
- **FIT DNA Test** - Mixes the FIT with a test that finds changed DNA in the stool.
- **Flexible Sigmoidoscopy** - The doctor checks for polyps or cancer inside the rectum and lower third of the colon.
- **Colonoscopy** - To check for polyps or cancer inside the rectum and the colon. During the test, the doctor can find and remove most polyps and some cancers.
- **CT Colonography** - uses X-rays and computers to show images of the whole colon.

