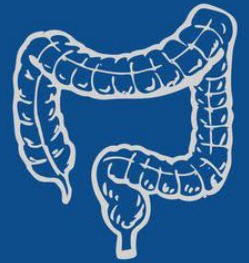


# COLORECTAL CANCER



## What is Colorectal Cancer?

The colon and rectum are both part of the large intestine, which is sometimes called the bowel. Cancers of both organs are often grouped together as colorectal cancer. Caring for your colon and rectum could save your life. Colorectal cancer often develops slowly over several years. It typically starts as a small abnormal growth on the inner lining of the colon or rectum called a polyp. Some polyps can eventually grow into cancer.

## What is a Colorectal Cancer Screening (Colonoscopy)?

During a colonoscopy, a thin, flexible tube with a light and a video camera on its tip is placed in your colon so a doctor can search for polyps. A tool at the end of the scope can remove polyps if they are found. A colonoscopy is the only screening method that not only detects cancer at its earliest stages but can also prevent it.

## When Should You Be Screened?

### Under Age 50

- If you have any of the signs of colon cancer listed on this page or have a family history of colorectal cancer, talk with your healthcare provider about when you should get screened.
- Some healthcare providers now recommend screenings starting at age 45.

### Age 50 and Over

- Everyone in this group should be screened with a colonoscopy. Talk to your doctor to schedule a screening.

## What Are Symptoms of Colorectal Cancer?

- Rectal bleeding or blood in the stool
- Changes in your bowel habits - diarrhea, constipation, or narrow stool - lasting more than a few days
- A persistent urge to use the bathroom
- Unexplained abdominal pain lasting more than a few days
- Unintended weight loss
- Unexplained fatigue
- Anemia

To learn more about colorectal cancer, please visit MSK Direct's personalized colon screening page for NYCDCC members at <https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/types/colon/guidelines>.

Information courtesy of [www.hopkinsmedicine.org](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org) and [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## One in 20

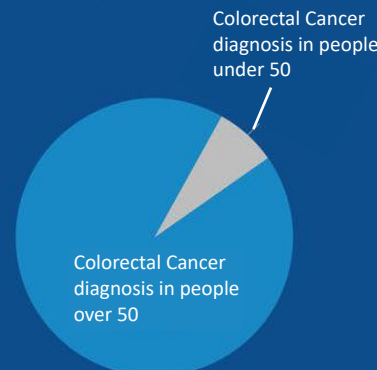
people will develop colorectal cancer



## #2

colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

but, if it's found early, colorectal cancer may be curable.



## More than 90 percent of cases occur in people over 50.

Adults should begin regular screening at age 50—earlier if there's a family history.

## Symptoms include:



Blood in your stool



Constant stomach pain or cramps



Unexpected weight loss

These symptoms could also be caused by something other than colorectal cancer. If you're experiencing any or all, talk to your doctor.