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.

Recommended screening could prevent at least 

60% of these deaths!

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

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.

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.

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/
