

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.

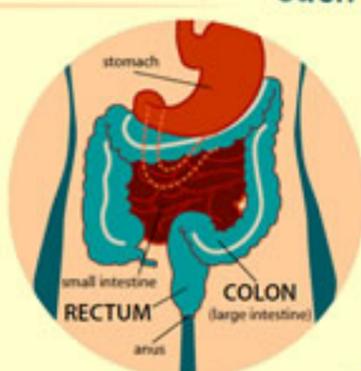
28 million
Americans are not up-to-date on screening.

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

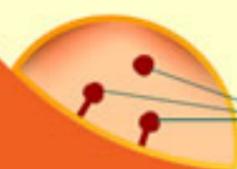
Recommended screening could prevent at least

60%

of these deaths!



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



Colon Polyps

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!

Once a year

High-sensitivity fecal occult blood test (FOBT):

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

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.

every 10 years

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/