

# Screening for Colorectal Cancer

It's the  
Right  
Choice

Of cancers that affect both men and women,  
colorectal (colon) cancer is the

## #2

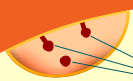
cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.

But it doesn't have to be.

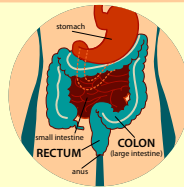
Screening tests can find this cancer  
early, when treatment works best.

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

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



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



Recommended screening  
could prevent at least  
**60%**  
of these deaths!

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.

Once a  
year

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/](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/)