

Risk Factors & Symptoms

Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives



Risk Factors

Getting screened for colorectal cancer starting at age 45 can save your life. Colorectal cancer is a leading cancer killer in the U.S. But it doesn't have to be. Routine screening for colorectal cancer beginning at age 45 can save lives! Screening finds abnormal growths so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.

You may be at increased risk if:

- ▶ You or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer.
- ▶ You have inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, or ulcerative colitis.
- ▶ You have a genetic syndrome such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome).

People at increased risk for colorectal cancer may need earlier or more frequent tests than other people. If you think you may be at increased risk, talk to your health care provider about the routine screening tests that are right for you.

What Are the Symptoms of Colorectal Cancer?

Someone could have colorectal cancer and not know it. People do not always have symptoms especially at first (or in early stages).

If there are symptoms, they may include:

- ▶ Changes in your bowel habits.
- ▶ Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement).
- ▶ Abdominal pain, aches, or cramps that don't go away.
- ▶ Unexplained weight loss.

Contact your health care provider if you notice any of these symptoms.



cdc.gov/colorectal-cancer/index.html
Call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
For TTY, call 1-888-232-6348