

COLORECTAL SCREENING

What is Colorectal Cancer?

- Cancer of the colon or rectum
- The third most common type of cancer in both men and women
- A disease that about one out of every 20 people in the United States will develop sometime during their lifetime

Symptoms of Colorectal Cancer May Include:

- Blood in the stool
- A change in bowel habits, such as chronic diarrhea or constipation
- Chronic abdominal pain or swelling
- Unexplained weight loss

Having any of these symptoms does not mean you have colorectal cancer. However, if you have any of these symptoms you should contact your doctor. Colorectal cancer screening can find the cancer early, while there is a good chance of being cured.

What Types of Colon Screening Measures are Available?

- Fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) is a procedure used to screen for blood in the stool.
- Digital rectal exam (DRE) is performed when a physician examines the lower portion of the rectum for polyps or other abnormal changes.
- Sigmoidoscopy is a procedure used to examine the distal part of the colon, known as the sigmoid colon and the rectum.
- Colonoscopy is a more extensive procedure used to examine the entire colon. Colon polyps may be removed during a colonoscopy.
- Barium enema is a procedure in which an X-ray of the colon is taken after liquid containing barium is placed in the rectum.

About Colorectal Cancer Screening

- Talk with your doctor about concerns or symptoms you may have.
- Begin screening for colorectal cancer by at least 50 years of age, or sooner if your colorectal risk is higher.
- Talk with your doctor to determine your risk and the most appropriate screening recommendations for you.



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For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (816) 932-9007.