



# RISK FACTORS & SYMPTOMS

## Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives

### Risk Factors

People at increased risk for colorectal cancer may need to start screening at an earlier age and get tested more frequently than other people.

#### **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 certain genetic syndromes, like familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (also known as Lynch syndrome).

Getting screened for colorectal cancer as recommended can reduce your risk for developing this disease. Screening finds precancerous polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. If you are 50 or older, talk to your doctor about getting screened.

### Symptoms

Don't wait for symptoms to be tested for colorectal cancer. Precancerous polyps and early-stage colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms.

#### **But if there are symptoms, they may include:**

- Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement).
- Pains, aches, or cramps in your stomach that do not go away.
- Losing weight and you don't know why.

They may be caused by something other than cancer, but the only way to know is to see your doctor. If you have any of these symptoms, talk to your doctor.



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