

Colorectal Cancer Facts

There are more than 130,000 new cases of colorectal cancer discovered each year in the United States. The disease affects men and women with almost equal frequency. The fact that many people avoid any discussion or examination of the colorectal area at least partly explains why the outlook for this disease is poor. Presently, more than 50 percent of people diagnosed with colorectal cancer will die from the disease within five years, even though we attempt to cure it with surgery.

After a great deal of study into this serious health problem, the doctors at PEN have devised a screening program which is based on the recommendations of the American Cancer Society as well as our own extensive experience in this area. Our screening program at PEN is designed to detect polyps and cancer before spread has occurred too far-before any symptoms have appeared.

We recommend that all persons with the following histories should be entered into the screening program.

Age Risk

The risk of colorectal cancer simply increases with age. Anyone over the age of 50 may be entered into our colorectal cancer screening program. If you wish to be entered on the basis of age risk (and you do not fit into any of the categories listed), discuss your wishes with your doctor.

Increased Risk

Children, parents, brothers or sisters of persons who have had colorectal cancer.

Anyone who has had breast cancer or cancer of the female reproductive system.

Anyone who has had a colon polyp.

Anyone who has had ulcerative colitis.

Our colorectal cancer screening coordinator can assist you in providing you with greater detail and information on how you can be entered in the program.

Tests and Reports

You and your physician will be informed at proper time intervals of tests which are necessary for proper screening and surveillance.

The testing includes stool tests for tiny amounts of blood not visible to the human eye. These tests can be handled through the mail and are usually obtained on an annual basis. However, stool testing alone is not adequate protection.

There are several additional tests of the colorectal area that may also be utilized-flexible proctosigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, and barium X-rays. The tests you receive will depend on your medical history and risk factors.

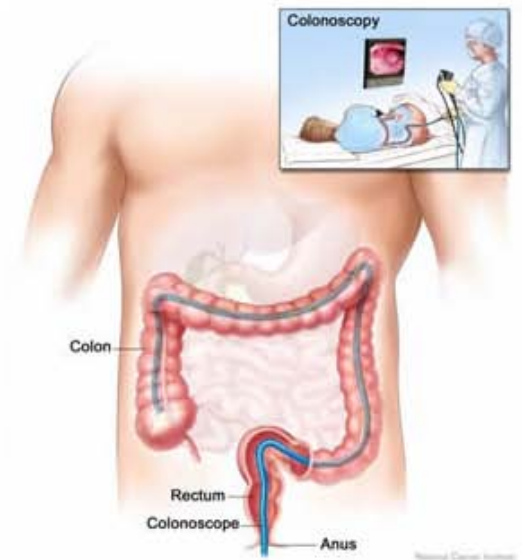
Cost

A small charge will be made for processing of the stool tests and posting these on your medical record. The endoscopic or X-ray tests will carry the usual charges. In most cases, stool tests are done annually and endoscopic or X-ray tests every 3 to 5 years. Negative screening exams are usually done every 10 years. The costs are usually covered by insurance for the most part, but if you do not have insurance coverage, PEN can make arrangements so that economics does not prevent you from having the needed exams.

Objective

Your physician feels that a careful colorectal screening program will allow us to diagnose the disease

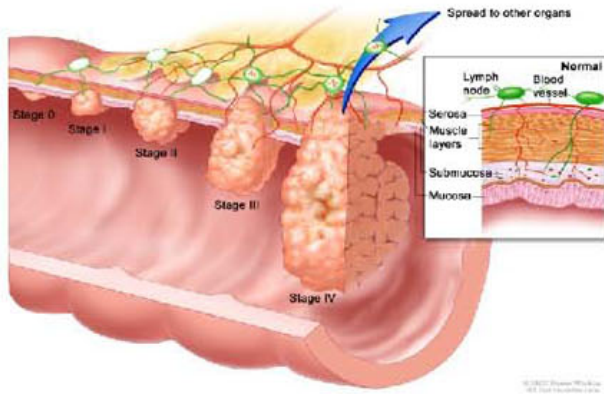
earlier and to significantly increase the cure rate for colorectal cancer.



To The Patient

Because education is an important part of comprehensive medical care, you have been provided with this information to prepare you for further discussions with your doctor or nurse. If you have questions about your need for colorectal cancer screening, alternative tests, the cost of the procedures, methods of billing, or insurance coverage, do not hesitate to speak to your doctor, or your doctor's office staff. Most endoscopists are highly trained specialists and welcome your questions regarding their credentials and training. If you have a question that has not been answered, please discuss them with the endoscopy nurse or Dr. Rodriguez before the examination begins.

Staging of Colon Cancer



There is no doubt that early detection is the key to long-term survival and cure of this disease.

Stool of Occult Blood

How to prepare for the test:

Do not consume red meat, any blood-containing food, cantaloupe, uncooked broccoli, turnip, radish, or horseradish for 3 days prior to the test.

You may need to discontinue drugs that can interfere with the test such as vitamin C and aspirin if possible. Check with your health care provider regarding medication changes that may be necessary. Never discontinue or decrease any medication without consulting your health care provider.

Information

For further information, please contact:

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Colorectal Cancer Screening Program



American Society for
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