

# WHAT IS COLON CANCER?



Sonya, 5+ year survivor  
Eleanor, caregiver for her mother

# COLON (OR COLORECTAL) CANCER IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON FORMS OF CANCER.

## What is colon cancer?

Colon cancer is a disease in the colon, or large intestine. The colon is responsible for removing fluid and nutrients from the food you eat, then pushing the waste into the rectum, where it can be expelled from the body.

Rectal cancer is a disease that starts in the rectum. The term colorectal cancer includes disease that starts in either location.

The screening is the same for both: a stool-based test, newly available blood-based tests, or visual screening like colonoscopy.

**Screening can find cancer in its earliest and most treatable stages - saving lives.**



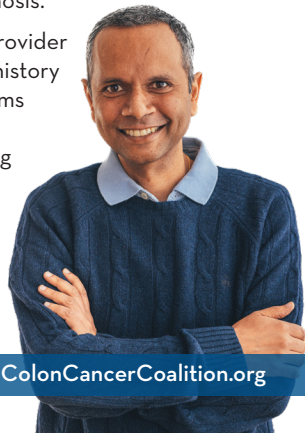
## Screening

Screening for average risk individuals should begin at age 45.

Those with a family history of polyps, colon, or rectal cancer should start at 40 or 10 years prior to the family members diagnosis.

Talk to your health care provider about your family health history and any digestive symptoms you are experiencing to determine when screening should begin for you.

Hari, diagnosed stage IV



[ColonCancerCoalition.org](https://www.ColonCancerCoalition.org)