



Myths and Truths about Colorectal Cancer



Don't let these common myths stop you from getting the lifesaving screening tests you need, when you need them.

78,080

ESTIMATED NEW
CASES IN 2026

24,590

ESTIMATED
DEATHS IN 2026

Colorectal cancer

IS THE 2ND LEADING CAUSE
OF CANCER RELATED DEATHS

1

MYTH:

Colorectal cancer cannot be prevented.

TRUTH:

In many cases, colorectal cancer can be prevented.

► Colorectal cancer cannot be prevented. Colorectal cancer usually starts small. If found early through tests that check for cancer before you feel sick, doctors can remove it and stop colorectal cancer before it starts.

2

MYTH

Screening for Colorectal Cancer is painful.

TRUTH:

There are several types of screening for Colorectal Cancer

► There are multiple tests that can be used to look for colorectal cancer. While a colonoscopy (where a doctor looks at your colon with a camera) is the most commonly known, it is far from the only test available. The best test for you will depend on several factors and should be discussed with your doctor.

3

MYTH

If you have colorectal cancer, it's better not to know because there's nothing the doctors can do and it will probably kill you.

TRUTH:

If colorectal cancer is found early, 90% of patients will be treated successfully.

► Colorectal cancer is often highly treatable. If colorectal cancer is found early, 90% of patients will be treated successfully. But because many people are not getting screened, only 33% of cases are found at this early stage, when treatment is so successful. That is why it is so important to get screened.



Scan the QR code for more information about steps you can take to stay well and prevent colorectal cancer, or visit www.cdc.gov/colorectal-cancer/screening/index.html

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