

America's #2 Cancer Killer

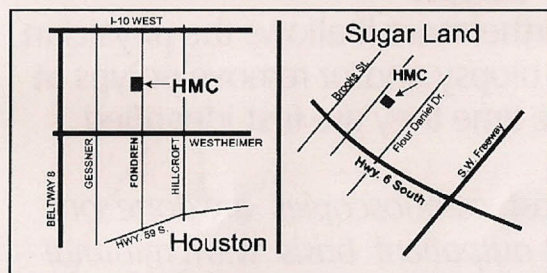
Colon Cancer

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Yes

IT IS PREVENTABLE!

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Colorectal cancer is the nation's second leading Cancer Killer.

- ◆ Colorectal cancer is 90% preventable and curable if diagnosed early. Unfortunately, according to the Center for Disease Control fewer than half of Americans over the age of 50 have ever been tested for the disease as recommended.



Risk Factors

- ◆ Both men and women are equally at risk.
- ◆ The risk of colorectal cancer increases with age. It most commonly occurs after age 50, but can strike at younger ages.
- ◆ African Americans are diagnosed with colorectal cancer at a younger age than other ethnic groups, and an earlier screening is essential.



Symptoms

- **Most early colorectal cancers produce no symptoms. This is why screening for colorectal cancer is so important.**

Some symptoms listed below do not always indicate the presence of Colorectal Cancer but should prompt a visit with your physician and a Check-up.

- *New on-set of abdominal pain.*
- *Blood in or on the stool.*
- *A change in stool caliber or shape.*
- *A change in typical bowel habits, constipation, diarrhea.*
- Colorectal cancer screening is recommended to begin at the age of 50.
- For African Americans the recommended screening age is at 45.

Colonoscopy is currently the most effective screening strategy.

Colonoscopy is the preferred and most recommended method of screening for colorectal cancer. The American College of Gastroenterology considers colonoscopy the gold standard for colorectal cancer screening.

The procedure allows the physicians to look directly at the entire colon, and successfully identify suspicious growths known as polyps. Furthermore it allows the physician to biopsy and/or remove polyps at the time they are first identified.

Most colonoscopies are done on an outpatient basis with minimal inconvenience and discomfort.

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