

# COLON CANCER SCREENING METHODS\*



	FIT	FOBT	CT COLONOGRAPHY (Virtual Colonoscopy)	FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY	COLONOSCOPY
DESCRIPTION	Designed to detect occult blood (blood not seen with the naked eye) in the stool, which may indicate colon cancer.	Designed to detect occult blood (blood not seen with the naked eye) in the stool, which may indicate colon cancer.	Uses computed tomography to create both two-dimensional and three-dimensional views of the inside of the colon and rectum to detect precancerous growths (polyps).	A test where the lower part of the colon and rectum are viewed by the doctor with a sigmoidoscope—a flexible, lighted tube about the thickness of a finger with a small video camera on the end.	A procedure that allows your doctor to look inside the rectum and the entire colon to check for cancer or precancerous growths (polyps) with a thin, flexible tube with a camera attached to it.
HOW IT WORKS	You collect a sample of your bowel movement at home and return the test kit to your doctor or a lab.	You collect a sample of your bowel movement at home and return the test kit to your doctor or a lab.	Your doctor will administer the test in the office, which takes only a few minutes in the scanner, with downtime before and after.	Your doctor will administer the test in the office, which takes approximately 20 minutes.	Your doctor will administer the test in the operating room.
FREQUENCY	EVERY YEAR	EVERY YEAR	EVERY 5 YEARS	EVERY 3-5 YEARS	EVERY 10 YEARS
PREPARATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You do not need to follow any diet preparation or changes to your medications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This test may require that you limit certain foods and medications in your diet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This test requires fasting</li> <li>Requires complete cleansing of the colon with a laxative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This test requires fasting</li> <li>Requires complete cleansing of the colon with a laxative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This test requires fasting</li> <li>Requires complete cleansing of the colon with a laxative</li> </ul>
TYPE	<b>NONINVASIVE</b>	<b>NONINVASIVE</b>	<b>NONINVASIVE</b>	<b>INVASIVE</b>	<b>INVASIVE</b>
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At-home stool collection</li> <li>If the test result is positive, a colonoscopy is needed to find the source of the bleeding</li> <li>Because there are other conditions that can cause blood in the stool, this may not be as reliable for detection of cancer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At-home stool collection</li> <li>If the test result is positive, a colonoscopy is needed to find the source of the bleeding</li> <li>Because there are other conditions that can cause blood in the stool, this may not be as reliable for detection of cancer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Useful for people who can't have or prefer not to have colonoscopies</li> <li>No sedation required</li> <li>Not covered by Medicare</li> <li>Not recommended for high-risk patients</li> <li>For diagnosis only—follow-up colonoscopy required if suspicious areas are found</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examines the entire rectum, and half of the colon</li> <li>Requires some type of sedation</li> <li>Air is put into the colon</li> <li>Suspicious-looking areas can be removed and biopsied during this procedure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examines the entire colon</li> <li>Removes polyps</li> <li>Patients receive sedation during the procedure</li> <li>Prepping for this test requires you to use the bathroom often, stick to a clear liquid diet, and drink a special solution that helps to empty your colon</li> </ul>