

Risks and Complications

There are a few risks and possible complications of colonoscopies. These include:

- Missed lesion
- Bleeding
- Infection
- Puncture or tearing in the colon
- Risks of anesthesia

At the Harrington Physician Services General Surgery Department, we will discuss all your treatment options and possible side effects and make you feel comfortable with the quality of care you will receive.



The American Cancer Society recommends regular colorectal cancer screenings for all adults over age 50. Visit www.cancer.org for more information.

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Harrington
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
Compassionate Quality Care

COLONOSCOPY



**Prevention is the
best detection.**

About Your Colon

The **colon** is also called the large intestine, and it is made up of four different parts: ascending, transverse, descending, and sigmoid.

The colon produces stool. It is made up of cells and lined with muscles and it removes water, salt and some other nutrients. Sometimes the cells surrounding the colon can change, grow, or become a risk to your health.

A colonoscopy is the best test your doctor can perform to find abnormalities in the colon.

What a Colonoscopy Might Find

A common type of colon disorder is a **polyp**. These small growths are commonly found on the wall of the colon or the rectum. They are usually benign, but they can become cancerous.

When your doctor performs a colonoscopy, they look for polyps. In some cases, surgery is needed to remove the growth or rule out cancer, but most polyps can be removed during the procedure and sent to the lab for testing.

Your surgeon will also be closely looking for any abnormal growths that could be cancerous (see *insert above*).

Colon Cancer

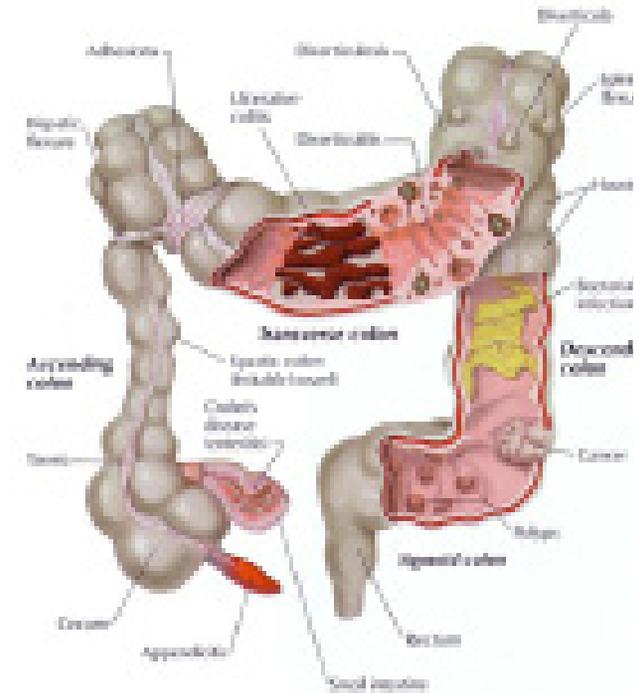
A colonoscopy is 80-90 percent effective at preventing colon cancer. There are four stages of colon cancer. Determining the stage helps your doctor make a decision on the best course of treatment.

Stage I: Cancer is only in the colon or rectum lining and wall.

Stage II: Cancer has spread more deeply into the wall, possible to nearby tissues.

Stage III: Cancer has spread to the lymph nodes

Stage IV: Cancer has spread to other parts of the body, including liver or lungs.



About Your Procedure

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