



COLORECTAL CANCER

Stage II and III

WHAT IS COLORECTAL CANCER?

Colorectal cancer is used to describe cancer of the colon or cancer of the rectum, both part of the large intestine. These cancers begin in the digestive system, where food is processed for energy and the body is freed of waste matter. Benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous) tumors can be found in the colon or the rectum and are known as polyps.

Colorectal cancer begins in the inner tissue of the colon or the rectum and spreads outward. Stage II colorectal cancer has spread through the middle tissue layer of the colon/rectum or it has spread beyond the colon/rectum wall into nearby organs. Stage III colorectal cancer has spread beyond the colon/rectum wall and has spread to nearby lymph nodes. Stage IV colorectal cancer has spread to distant organs.

WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS FOR COLORECTAL CANCER?

Many risk factors for cancers can be changed by behavior and lifestyle. Some risk factors can not be avoided, such as age, race/ethnicity, and genetics. The following are risk factors for colorectal cancer:

- Lack of physical activity
- Diet high in fat
- Obesity
- Smoking: recent studies show smokers are 30 to 40 percent more likely than non-smokers to die of colorectal cancer
- Alcohol use
- Over 50 Years
- History of polyps
- Family history of colorectal cancer

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS FOR COLORECTAL CANCER?

The following symptoms could be caused by colorectal cancer. A doctor should be consulted if any of the problems occur. The following are symptoms of colorectal cancer:

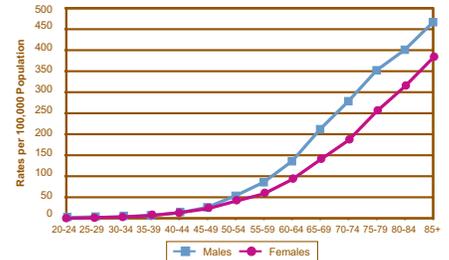
- A change in bowel movements
- Blood in stool
- Diarrhea or constipation
- Frequent gas pains, bloating, fullness, or cramps
- Unknown weight loss
- Feeling very tired
- Vomiting

WHO GETS COLORECTAL CANCER?

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer among men and women in California. In 2007, approximately 15,000 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in California and approximately 5,000 Californians will die of the disease.

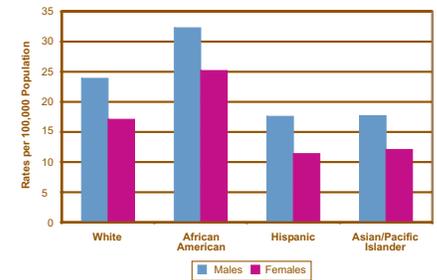
- Men are at a higher risk of developing colorectal cancer than women.
- African Americans have the highest risk for developing colorectal cancer followed by Non-Hispanic Whites, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics.
- More than nine out of ten people diagnosed with colorectal cancer are over the age of 50.
- A family history of colorectal cancer increases a person's risk of developing colorectal cancer themselves.
- People with lack of physical activity combined with a diet high in fat are at increased risk for developing colorectal cancer.
- People who smoke cigarettes are at an increased risk.
- People who drink alcohol heavily are at increased risk.

Five-Year Colorectal Cancer Incidence Rates, by Sex and Age, 1999-2003 Combined



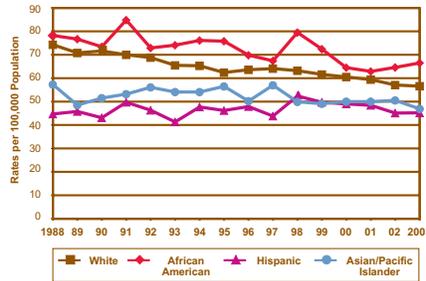
Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section.

Colorectal Cancer Mortality Rates, by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, 1988-2003 Combined



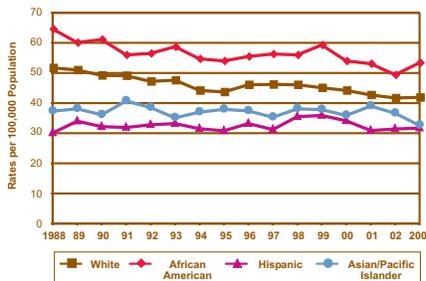
Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section.

Colorectal Cancer Incidence Rates Among Males, by Race/Ethnicity, 1988-2003



Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section.

Colorectal Cancer Incidence Rates Among Females, by Race/Ethnicity, 1988-2003



Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section.

WHAT ARE THE TREATMENTS FOR THIS CANCER?

Stage II and Stage III colorectal cancers patients are often given the same treatment options. The patient may have a surgical resection/anastomosis where the doctor will remove the tumor and some surrounding healthy tissue and sew the healthy tissues back together. The patient may also receive chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and/or biologic therapy after surgery.

WHO SURVIVES COLORECTAL CANCER?

Five-year relative survival rates for colorectal cancer:

Stage I	96 percent
Stage II	82 percent
Stage III	60 percent
Stage IV	7.4 percent



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