



Information for Patients
American College of Gastroenterology
Recommendations for Colorectal Cancer Prevention

Surveillance of Colorectal Cancer

Persons who have had colorectal Cancer or Pre-cancerous Colorectal Polyps require continued evaluation of the colon to prevent recurrence of colon polyps and colorectal cancer. This process is called *surveillance*.

Recommendations for Surveillance of Colorectal Cancer and Polyps

Findings of Most Recent Colonoscopy	ACG Recommendations
Colorectal Cancer	Colonoscopy between 3 months and 1 yr. *
Pre-Cancerous Polyps	Colonoscopy between 3 months and 1 yr. *
Normal Examination	Colonoscopy -- usually in 5 years

* Most patients can have their next colonoscopy in 3-5 years, but some patients will need colonoscopy repeated in as little as 3 months to 1 year. Medicare allows colonoscopy as frequently as 2 years to allow for special circumstances and covers more frequent intervals when medically indicated. Your gastrointestinal specialist will decide what interval is most appropriate in your individual case.

Note: Patients with ulcerative colitis involving most of the colon for more than 8 years, or involving the left colon for 15 years or more are at increased risk for colorectal cancer. In addition, patients with long standing Crohn's Disease are at increased risk for colorectal cancer. These patients should undergo colonoscopy every 1 to 2 years. Your gastrointestinal specialist will assist you further in determining your individual needs.