

Colorectal Cancer Screening (Blood) Test

Test Description:

Colorectal Cancer (CRC), which includes both Rectal and Colon Cancer, is currently recognized as the third most common cancer diagnosis in the US, with rates of diagnosis in people under 50 years of age increasing since the mid-1990s. Like any type of cancer, the risk of getting CRC can vary due to many different factors, like age, race, gender, family history, personal history, etc. Early identification of that risk can help lead to an early diagnosis and, in most cases, easier treatment options.

Any Lab Test Now offers a cutting-edge colon cancer screening test that uses blood to search for the risk of CRC in any patient 45 years of age and older. Previously, screening for CRC was only performed through invasive procedures like a colonoscopy, which can be an expensive and complicated procedure. Studies have been conducted that look for "suspicious markers", or things to make your provider suspect the possibility of CRC, but these have relied on stool (fecal) samples for testing. Three of the specific protein markers that have been highly associated with the presence of CRC are also present in blood samples. By looking for these markers, a simple blood test can now alert you to the possible presence of colorectal cancer.

While this test should not replace regular check-ups with your healthcare provider, and a colonoscopy might still be

recommended or needed; this test can provide an additional step for early detection, without much more complicated or difficult testing.

All test results should be provided to your physician for additional follow-up and review.

This test is indicated for people 45-80 years of age, at average risk for colorectal cancer, and who are unable or unwilling to participate in other recommended colorectal cancer screening tests. This test is not intended for people with family or personal history of colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps. This test is also not intended for people who have an inflammatory disease, people who are pregnant or nursing, people who are receiving chemotherapy or radiation, and people who are less than 60 days post-surgical procedure.

Am I required to fast?

No, fasting is not required before being tested.

What kind of sample is required?

A blood sample is required for the test.

How long will it take to get my results?

Results are typically available within 10 business days after the lab receives your sample.

Is a doctor's order required?

Any Lab Test Now can provide a physician's order, if you are not able to provide one.

Do I need to make an appointment?

No, you are welcome to walk in for same-day testing. We make it easy for you by offering work-friendly hours.

If the results are positive, does that mean I have cancer?

A positive result can potentially indicate the presence of colorectal cancer (CRC) or advanced adenoma (pre-cancer). It is recommended that further evaluation and studies take place, and that a follow-up colonoscopy be conducted, as indicated by your provider.

If the results are negative, does that mean I don't have cancer?

A negative result indicates a lower likelihood that colorectal cancer (CRC) is present. Even with a negative result, it is

advisable to participate in a colorectal cancer screening program and do so at a recommended interval.

If I have a positive screen result, will my health insurance pay for a colonoscopy?

Different health insurance plans will have different policies regarding colorectal cancer screening coverage. Before someone gets a screening test, they should confirm with their insurance provider about what it might mean if they need a colonoscopy as a result of the test. They should also confirm how much (if anything) they may be required to pay for it.

Who is not a candidate for the Colorectal Cancer Screen (Blood) Test?

- Customers must be between the ages of 45 – 80.
- Customers cannot have a personal or family history of colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps.
- Customers who are pregnant or nursing.
- Persons undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatment for cancer.
- Persons who are less than 60 days post-surgical procedure.
- Persons with a known inflammatory disease.

We recommend that you work closely with your healthcare provider to decide what type of colorectal cancer screening is right for you.

If I have questions about my results, who should I contact?

We always recommend you share your results with your healthcare provider, regardless of the outcome. In case of a positive result on this test, a healthcare provider will reach out directly to provide basic guidance on potential next steps.

WRITTEN BY:

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Ekan Essien, MD, MPH, a native Georgian, received his BA from Duke University. Dr. Essien continued his education at Florida A&M University where he received his Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology; received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and obtained training in general and trauma surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is a candidate in the post graduate fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.