

TOP 5 MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT COLON CANCER (and the TRUTHS you should know)



MYTH: Colon cancer is a men's disease.

TRUTH: Colon cancer is the third most common cancer among U.S. men and women. This year, more than 153,000 people are expected to be diagnosed, and more than 52,000 will die from the disease.

MYTH: Colon cancer cannot be prevented.

TRUTH: By getting tested, you can prevent colon cancer. Colon cancer almost always starts with a polyp. Get the polyp early and stop colon cancer before it starts.

MYTH: African Americans are not at risk for colon cancer.

TRUTH: African American men and women have higher rates of getting colon cancer and dying from the disease than men and women of other racial and ethnic groups.

MYTH: Age doesn't matter when it comes to getting colon cancer.

TRUTH: Most colon cancers are diagnosed in individuals 50 or older. The American Cancer Society recommends beginning screening tests at age 50 for people of average risk. You should talk to your doctor about getting tested.

MYTH: It's better not to get tested for colon cancer because it's deadly anyway.

TRUTH: Colon cancer is highly treatable. If colon cancer is found early and treated, the five-year survival rate is 90 percent. But currently, only 39 percent of cases are diagnosed at this early stage.



1.800.ACS.2345
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