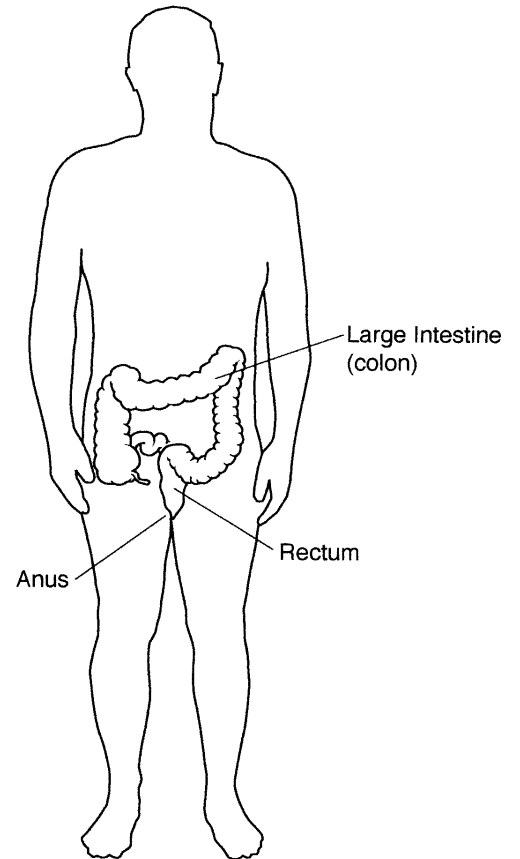


# Cancer of the Colon and Rectum

The colon is also called the large bowel or large intestine. It is the lower 5 to 6 feet of the digestive system. The last 8 to 10 inches of the colon is the rectum. Colon cancer, sometimes called colorectal cancer, is cancer that starts in the large intestine or rectum.

Cancer cells are abnormal cells. Cancer cells grow and divide more quickly than healthy cells. Some cancer cells may form growths called tumors. All tumors increase in size, but some tumors grow quickly, others slowly. Some cancer cells spread to other parts of the body through the blood and lymph systems.



## Signs

Cancer of the colon and rectum often has no signs. **See your doctor** if you have any of these signs:

- Dark or bright red blood in or on the stool
- Diarrhea or constipation that does not go away or other change in bowel habits
- Pain in the lower abdomen
- Loss of weight for no reason
- Feel tired or lack energy
- Stools are more narrow than usual for more than a few days. This may be from a tumor in the rectum.

# 結腸和直腸癌

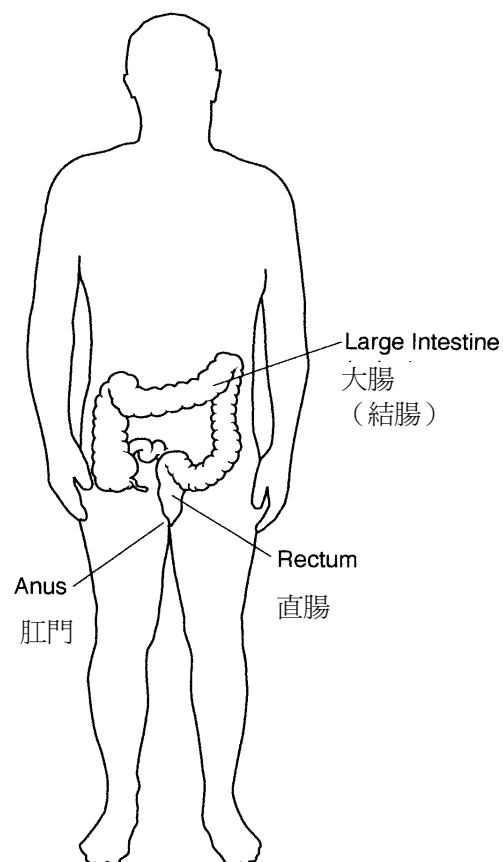
結腸也稱大腸。結腸是消化系統的一部分，長度 1.5 至 1.8 公尺 (5 至 6 呎)。結腸末端的 20 至 25 公分(8 至 10 吋) 稱為直腸。結腸癌有時稱為大腸直腸癌，是指原發於大腸或直腸的癌。

癌細胞是異常的細胞。癌細胞的生長和分裂比健康細胞快。有些癌細胞可能生長形成腫瘤。所有的腫瘤都會不斷變大，但是生長速度有快有慢。有些癌細胞可能透過血液和淋巴系統擴散至身體的其他部位。

## 症狀

結腸和直腸癌往往沒有症狀。如果有下列任何症狀，**立即去看醫生**：

- 大便表面或內部有暗紅或鮮紅的血
- 長期腹瀉或便秘，或大便習慣發生其他變化。
- 下腹部疼痛
- 體重無故降低
- 感到勞累或沒有精力
- 大便比平時細，並且持續多日如此。這可能是因為直腸內有腫瘤所致。



## Types of Tumors

Tumors found in the colon or rectum can be benign or malignant.

- **Benign tumors** do not spread to other parts of the body. They can be removed by surgery. **Cysts** are benign tumors that contain fluid.
- **Malignant tumors** may grow into the nearby tissues, organs or blood.

## Your Care

### Tests

If your doctor thinks you may be at risk for cancer, you may have some of these tests:

- **Physical exam** with a rectal exam where the doctor inserts a lubricated gloved finger into the rectum to feel for lumps.
- **Hemoccult test to check** stool samples for blood.
- **Sigmoidoscopy** where a thin, flexible tube is put into the rectum to let the doctor see inside the lower part of the colon.
- **Colonoscopy** where a thin, flexible tube is put into the rectum to let the doctor see the entire length of the colon.
- Samples of tissue are removed for testing, called a **biopsy**.
- **Barium enema** where liquid barium and air is put into the rectum to see the colon on x-ray.
- **Blood tests** to check blood loss and how well the liver is working.

If tumors are found, your doctor may order x-rays, CT scans and other types of blood tests to see if the cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

## 腫瘤的種類

結腸或直腸內的腫瘤分良性和惡性。

- **良性腫瘤**不會擴散至身體其他部位。良性腫瘤可以手術切除。囊腫是包含液體的良性腫瘤。
- **惡性腫瘤**可能蔓延至週邊的組織、器官或血液。

## 護理

### 測試

如果醫生認為您有癌症風險，則可接受下列測試。

- **體檢**時做直腸檢查，醫生帶指套，抹潤滑劑後，將手指伸入直腸檢查是否有腫塊。
- **大便潛血測試**：檢查大便樣本是否帶血。
- **乙狀直腸內視鏡檢查**：用柔軟的細管伸入直腸，讓醫生觀察大腸末段的內部。
- **結腸鏡檢查**：用柔軟的細管伸入直腸，讓醫生觀察整段大腸的情況。
- 取組織樣本進行測試，稱為**切片檢查**。
- **鋇灌腸檢查**：將鋇化合物的溶液和空氣灌入直腸，透過 X 光檢查直腸。
- **血液測試**：檢查失血情況和肝臟的功能。

如果發現腫瘤，醫生可能要求做 X 光檢查、CT 掃描檢查和其他血液檢查，以確定癌是否已擴散至身體其他部位。

## **Treatment**

After all of your tests are done, your doctor will talk to you about treatments that are best for you. Treatment may include:

- **Surgery** to remove the tumor. The kind of surgery will depend on the location and size of the tumor. Often, the part of the colon with cancer is removed.
- **Radiation therapy** to stop or slow the growth of cancer. It is often used after surgery to destroy any cancer cells that may remain.
- **Chemotherapy** medicines to kill cancer cells. These medicines are given by mouth, by injection into a muscle or vein, or directly into the affected organ to treat cancer. These medicines help kill cancer cells.
- **Immunotherapy** may also be called biotherapy. This treatment uses natural substances made by the body's immune system. This kills cancer cells, slows their growth or helps the immune system fight the cancer in a better way. It may also be used to lessen the side effects of other cancer treatments.

You may have one or more cancer treatments. Some patients have surgery followed by radiation therapy or chemotherapy.

## **Follow-up Care**

Regular visits to your doctor are important. Your care at these visits may include blood tests, CT scans, chest x-rays or other tests. Report any problems to your doctor between visits.

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**

## 治療

完成測試後，醫生會與患者討論最佳治療方案。治療方法可包括：

- **手術**，摘除腫瘤。手術種類依種類的位置和大小而定。手術往往要切除部分帶癌的結腸。
- **放射治療**，目的是制止或延緩癌組織的生長。放射治療往往在手術後進行，以消滅可能殘留的癌細胞。
- **化學治療**，用藥物殺滅癌細胞。化學治療藥物可口服、靜脈或肌肉注射，或直接注射入有關器官，以治療癌症。這些藥物有助殺滅癌細胞。
- **免疫治療**，也可稱為生物治療。免疫治療採用人體免疫系統產生的天然物質進行治療。這些物質可殺滅癌細胞，降低癌細胞的生長速度或幫助免疫系統提高抗癌能力。此外，免疫治療也可用於緩解其他癌症治療方法產生的副作用。

患者可採取一種或多種癌症治療方法。有些患者在手術後接受放射治療或化學治療。

## 後續治療

必須定期到醫生處複診。複診時可能要做血液測試、CT 掃描檢查、胸部 X 光檢查或其他測試。複診間隔期間如果有問題，要向醫生報告。

**如果有任何疑問或擔心，請諮詢醫生或護士。**

2/2008. Developed through a partnership of The Ohio State University Medical Center, Mount Carmel Health and OhioHealth, Columbus, Ohio. Available for use as a public service without copyright restrictions at [www.healthinfotranslations.org](http://www.healthinfotranslations.org).