

MEDICAL

COLORECTAL CANCER



OVERVIEW

Colorectal Cancer is a malignant condition that arises in the colon or rectum, part of the body's digestive system. It ranks as the third most common Cancer and a leading cause of Cancer-related deaths globally. The disease can affect anyone, but risk factors significantly increase with age, particularly for individuals over 50.

Diagnosis typically involves screening via colonoscopy, imaging techniques (CT or MRI scans), and biopsy for histological confirmation. Staging of Colorectal Cancer (from Stage 0 to IV) helps determine the extent of the disease, which is crucial for crafting an effective treatment plan.

KEY FACTORS

- Individuals with relatives who have had Colorectal Cancer or certain genetic syndromes (like Lynch syndrome or familial adenomatous polyposis) are at greater risk.
- Diets high in red or processed meats, obesity, lack of physical activity, smoking, and heavy alcohol consumption are linked to higher risk.
- Conditions like inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) may increase risk.

Treatments:

- Surgery: Resection of the tumor or affected portion of the colon.
- Chemotherapy: Often utilized post-surgery to eliminate residual disease.
- Radiation Therapy: Primarily for rectal cancer to shrink tumors before surgery.



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