

Shh..... come close, I've got something to tell you. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), **Colorectal Cancer**—of the colon or rectum—is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. In 2004, more than 53,000 people in the United States died of colorectal cancer (26,881 men and 26,699 women).

Why are we whispering? Colorectal Cancer is one of those cancers you don't hear much about—why—it's that word "rectal"—it isn't one we like to use a whole lot. But, as these death statistics demonstrate, we should talk about it more because colorectal cancer, and dying from colorectal cancer, is prevalent in our society.

<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/>

Findings from CDC's 2000 National Health Interview Survey indicate that many people who are at risk for colorectal cancer are not being screened. Although screening rates are beginning to rise, they remain too low to achieve the Healthy People 2010 objective for reducing mortality from colorectal cancer.

- **Colon Cancer At A Glance**
- Colorectal cancer is a malignant tumor arising from the inner wall of the large intestine.
- Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer in males and fourth in females in the U.S.
- Risk factors for colorectal cancer include heredity, colon polyps, and long-standing ulcerative colitis.
- Most colorectal cancers develop from polyps. Removal of colon polyps can prevent colorectal cancer.
- Colon polyps and early cancer can have no symptoms. Therefore regular screening is important.
- Diagnosis of colorectal cancer can be made by barium enema or by colonoscopy with biopsy confirmation of cancer tissue.

- Treatment of colorectal cancer depends on the location, size, and extent of cancer spread, as well as the age and health of the patient.
- Surgery is the most common treatment for colorectal cancer.

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/colon-and-rectal/page4>

Source: U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. *United States Cancer Statistics: 2004 Incidence and Mortality*. Atlanta (GA): Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Cancer Institute; 2007.