

# Colon Cancer and You



Colorectal cancer is a cancer that occurs within the colon and rectum. Cancer occurs when cells grow out of control and in this type it occurs within the gastrointestinal tract of both men and women.

## GENES ASSOCIATED WITH COLORECTAL CANCER

Colorectal cancer can be inherited from the mother's or father's side of the family. Genes make up our entire bodies. For example, genes decide the color of our hair and how tall we are. One cause of colon cancer is a condition called Lynch syndrome. Changes in three genes, MLH1, MLH2, and MSH6 are responsible for most cases of inherited colon cancer. Cancers that are associated with Lynch syndrome are: colon, endometrial, stomach, ovarian, brain, kidney/urinary tract, small bowel, pancreatic and sebaceous adenomas.

## FAMILY RISK ASSESSMENT

Consider your mother's and father's family history and check the boxes below that apply to you.

- Personal history of colorectal cancer before the age of 50
- Personal history of endometrial cancer before the age of 50
- You have had two or more of the cancers listed above
- First degree relative (parent, sibling, child) with any of the cancers listed above before the age of 50
- Relative who carries a Lynch syndrome mutation

If you mark any of the boxes above, please call Presbyterian Cancer Center Genetics Program to schedule an appointment.

**Presbyterian**  **CANCER CENTER**

**CANCER GENETICS PROGRAM**

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**For more information, contact 704-384-5221.**

*The genetic counselor will review your family history, options for testing and the precautions that you and your family may need to take based on your family history and/or test results.*

