



Colon cancer

Colon cancer risk assessment

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally and represents a significant public health concern. It is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in both males and females. While recent data has shown an increase in cases at younger ages, CRC incidence rates typically rise with increasing age. CRC is uncommon among people aged 40 and younger, but the incidence begins to rise significantly after age 45. This is the reason why new screening guidelines recommend surveillance starting at age 45.

Over the last decades, CRC mortality rates have declined progressively in most developed nations. This improvement in mortality is thought to be a result of wellness initiatives, enhanced screening and improved treatment regimens. Despite improvement in outcomes in developed nations, the global burden of CRC is expected to increase due to growth and aging of the population.

We invite our clients to check out our updated colon cancer manual section at: Malignant Tumors of the Colon and Rectum - LifeWUM (www.optimumgroup.com). For more information on how to access Optimum's considerable underwriting and actuarial resources please reach out to your representative.



Dr. Minas Joannides
Chief Medical Director
Optimum Re Insurance Company

The following findings at diagnosis are linked with poorer survival

- Pre-treatment Serum Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA) > 5ng/mL
- High pathological grade
- Less than 12 lymph nodes obtained for evaluation during surgery
- Family history and familial colon cancer syndromes (Familial adenomatous polyposis, Lynch syndrome, Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colon Cancer (HPNCC), etc.)
- Past history of adenomatous polyps
- Personal history of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD)



Statistics

Colon cancer early detection is essential in improving mortality



From 2016 to 2020, about 1 in 3 colorectal cancer cases were diagnosed at a localized stage, almost 4 in 10 colorectal cancers were found at a regional stage and about 2 in 10 were found at a distant stage.



Survival is higher when colorectal cancer is found before it spreads to other parts of the body. Screening tests can prevent colorectal cancer or find it early, when treatment works best.



2020 cancer incidence was lower than in 2019. This may have been due to the effect the COVID-19 pandemic had on cancer screening, diagnosis, and reporting to some central cancer registries in 2020.

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/statistics/index.htm>

For more information on how we can help you, please visit:

 www.optimumre.com

 www.optimumre.com/linkedin

