

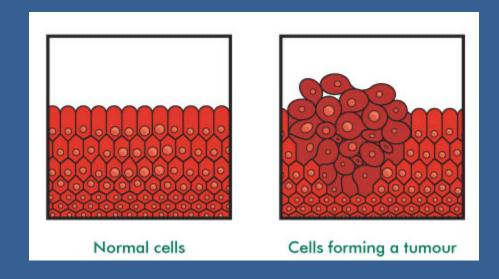
## **UNDERSTANDING CANCER**





#### WHAT IS CANCER?

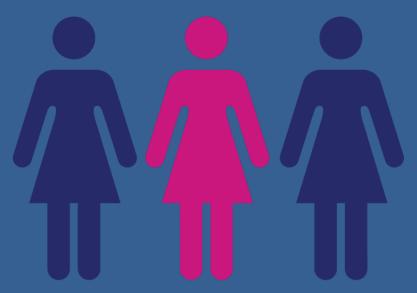
- The body is made up of cells, which usually divide and grow in a controlled and orderly way.
- Cancer cells are abnormal. They divide and grow rapidly in an uncontrolled way.





### HISPANICS & CANCER

- Cancer is the leading cause of death in Hispanics
- About 1 in 3 Hispanic men and 1 in 3 Hispanic women well be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime



### CANCER AND LIFESTYLE

- Many things we do and do not do can increase our chances of getting cancer
- □ When we eat unhealthy foods and are inactive our organs start to get worn down
- We can change these behaviors and may be able to reduce our chances of developing cancer

Cancer Riskometer



### WHY DO WE GET CANCER?

#### **External Factors**

- Unhealthy food choices
- Lack of physical activity
- Excessive alcohol consumption
- Cigarette smoking
- Radiation

#### **Internal Factors**

- Inherit cancer genes
- Abnormal hormone levels



### CANCER OBESITY & DIABETES

- There is a relationship between obesity and certain cancers, such as colorectal and breast cancers.
  - Cancer can also be harder to detect in obese women and men
- Diabetes' risk of colorectal and breast cancer is 20 to 50% high than non-diabetics.





### **MYTHS**

The following statements are commonly believed to be true, but are actually false.



# **MYTH #1**



"It doesn't matter what I do. If I'm going to get cancer, I'll get it no matter what."



## MYTH #1: FALSE

- Some cancers may be preventable by:
  - Eating a healthy diet
  - Exercising regularly
  - Avoiding tobacco
  - Getting recommended screenings



# **MYTH #2**



"If I don't have a family history of cancer, then I don't need to worry about ever getting it."



### MYTH #2: FALSE

- It's estimated that only 1 in 20 cases of all cancers are truly passed down by family
  - Speak with a doctor about your cancer risks if a family member has had cancer
- Over 8 in 10 of women who get breast cancer do not have a family history of the disease
  - So make sure to take care of your body and get recommended screenings



# BREAST CANCER





# BREAST CANCER

- Breast cancer can start in any part of the breast.
- Obesity and lack of physical activity may increase the risk of developing breast cancer in women and men.





### BREAST CANCER PREVEVNTION



- Ways to decrease risk of breast cancer:
  - Maintaining a healthy body weight
  - Engaging in moderate or vigorous physical activity
  - Breast-feeding
  - Routine screening called mammograms can help to find growths in the breast before they get serious

### BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS

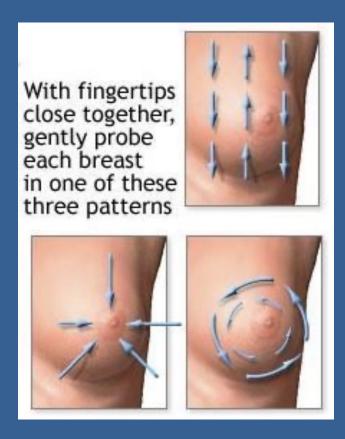
- Screening for breast cancer include:
  - Clinical breast exams every 1-3 years starting at age 25
  - Annual clinical breast exams and mammograms starting at age 40





#### BREAST CANCER SELF SCREENINGS

- one must become familiar with their own breast in order to notice when changes take place
- Adult women of all ages are encouraged to perform a self check at least once a month





### **MYTHS**

The following statements are commonly believed to be true, but are actually false.



# MYTH #3



"If I had breast cancer, I would know. I would feel it."



### MYTH #3: FALSE

- There are often no symptoms of breast cancer, but sometimes a person my discover a breast problem on their own.
- Signs and symptoms to be aware of may include:
  - A painless lump in the breast
  - Changes in breast size or shape
  - Swelling in the armpit
  - Nipple changes or discharge
  - Breast pain



# **MYTH #4**



"Mammograms cause cancer."



### MYTH #4: FALSE

- Mammograms require very small doses of radiation.
  - If cancer is present, it can be found in the earlier stages.
  - □ The benefits of a mammogram outweigh the risk.

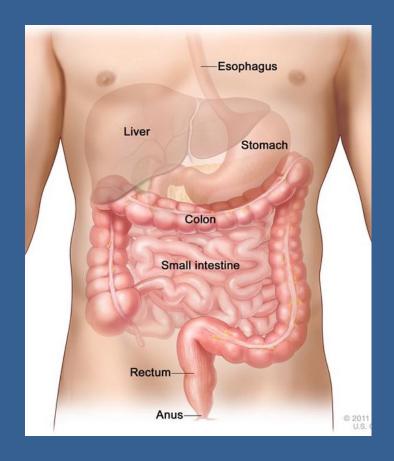


# COLORECTAL CANCER



# COLORECTAL CANCER

- Colorectal cancer starts in the colon or the rectum
- Polyps, abnormal growths, can grow on the tissue lining of the colon which may lead to cancer
- Factors such as obesity and diabetes can increase risk





#### COLORECTAL CANCER SYMPTOMS

- There are usually no early warning signs
  - It is important to get screened
  - Detecting cancer early can save lives
- Signs as the disease progresses
  - Blood in stool
  - Abdominal pain
  - Change in bowel habits
  - Unexplained weight loss
  - Fatigue



### COLORECTAL CANCER PREVENTION

- A lifestyle that includes regular physical activity can cut your risk of developing colorectal cancer in half
- Ways to decrease risk:
  - Eating a healthy diet that includes fruits, vegetables, high fiber foods, and calcium
  - Consuming less red meat and animal fat
  - Engaging in physical activity





#### COLORECTAL CANCER RISK FACTORS

#### UNCONTROLLABLE

- Age
- Personal or family history of polyps or colorectal cancer
- Personal history of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
- Inherited syndromes such as Familial Adenomatous Polypois (FAP) and Lynch Syndrome

#### CONTROLLABLE

- Diet high in red or processed meats
- Being overweight excess fat around the waist
- Not getting enough exercise
- Smoking and/or heavy alcohol use



### COLORECTAL SCREENINGS

- Beginning at age 50, both men and women should get screened for colorectal cancer
- There are several options, some are very simple and easy but have to be done more often
- Some might cost more, but do not have to be completed as often
- The fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) is one of the easiest and cheapest test, but should be completed annually

#### TYPES OF COLORECTAL SCREENINGS

- Tests that find polyps and cancer
  - Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years
  - □ Colonoscopy every 10 years
  - Double-contrast barium enema every 5 years
  - CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every 5 years
- Tests that primarily find cancer
  - Yearly fecal occult blood test (gFOBT)
  - Yearly fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every year
  - Stool DNA test (sDNA), interval uncertain



## **MYTHS**

The following statements are commonly believed to be true, but are actually false.



# MYTH #5



"Colorectal screenings are extremely risky and painful."

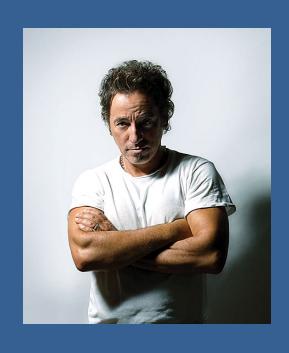


# MYTH #5: FALSE

- ☐ There are many different types of screenings and they are all low risk
- Tests may be uncomfortable but it should not be painful



# MYTH #5



"It's better not to get tested for colorectal cancer beacuase it's deadly anyway."



## MYTH #5: FALSE

- Colorectal cancer is often highly treatable
- If it's found and treated early, the 5-year relative survival rate is about 90%
- Only about 4 out of 10 are diagnosed at this early stage when treatment is most likely to be successful



# MYTH #6



"Once you get cancer it's too late."



# MYTH #6: FALSE

- Most types of cancer can be treated completely if diagnosed early
- Even in advanced staged cancer, much can be done to alleviate symptoms and prolong survival



# HOW TO START

- Take control of your health and reduce your cancer risk
  - Eat healthy with plenty of fruits and vegetables
  - Get moving with regular physical activity
  - Stay at a healthy weight
  - Stay away from tobacco products
  - Limit how much alcohol you drink
  - Know yourself, your family history, and your risks
  - Have regular check-ups and cancer screening tests





Find your support system. It could be a friend, co-worker, neighbor or family member.



Ask friends and family for healthy recipes that have fiber and calcium.





Try eating meals without meat a few times each week.





There are free or reduced priced cancer screenings. Ask your doctors or go to community clinic and find out where!





# SCREENINGS FOR BREAST AND COLORECTAL CANCER

AGE	25-39	<b>40</b> S	<b>50s</b>
WOMEN	• Clinical breast exams every 1-3 years	<ul> <li>Yearly clinical breast exam</li> <li>Yearly mammograms</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Yearly clinical breast exam and mammograms</li> <li>Colorectal cancer screening, interval dependent upon test</li> </ul>
MEN	• Conduct self exams unless at high risk*	• Conduct self exams unless at high risk*	Colorectal cancer screening, interval dependent upon test

<sup>\*</sup>According to The National Comprehensive Cancer Network, men at high risk for breast cancer should have a clinical breast exams as well as mammograms.

#### TAKE CONTROL!

#### Scenario:

I have made it a habit to get my screenings done every June.







#### NEXT STEP



Start today beacuse Your Health Matters!

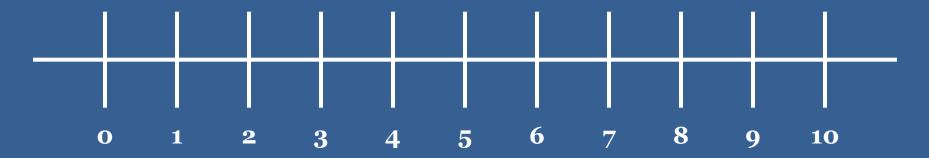
# THE PLAN

Disadvantages	Advantages



#### THE PLAN

On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you that you can eat healthy portions daily?



Less Important Very Important



#### MAKE A PLAN

# Setting goals is the key to success. Write small, clear and realistic goals.

What part of your plate is vegetables?

How do you remember the portions?

When will you start eating healthy portions?



## REFERENCES

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