# Before it's cancer.

## Colonoscopy doesn't just look for cancer. It can prevent it.

Removing precancerous polyps during the exam helps prevent colorectal cancer.[1]

**Our position:** colonoscopy first when you are due, medically eligible, willing, and have timely access.

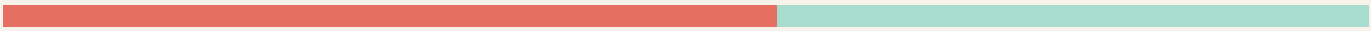
**COLOGUARD PLUS / WHAT A NEGATIVE RESULT CAN MISS**

ABOUT

**57%**

of people who had **advanced precancer** tested negative in one screening round.[2]

Higher-risk growths that can become cancer.



**Not detected: 56.7%** **Detected: 43.3%**

1,113 of 1,962 participants with advanced precancer. FDA analysis.[2]

A negative result is **not an all-clear for precancer.**

The 57% is not the share of negative tests with precancer. This one-round finding does not compare lifetime cancer prevention.[2]

**01 / KNOW WHEN YOU ARE DUE**

Screening starts at **45** for most people, even without symptoms. Family or personal history may mean starting earlier. If already screened or over 75, ask when screening is right for you.[3]

**02 / MAKE THE EXAM COUNT**

Ask how your doctor tracks polyp detection. Follow the prep instructions, arrange a ride if sedated, and confirm how to get your results and next-exam plan.[1,4]

**Know the tradeoffs.** Colonoscopy can miss polyps or cancer. Uncommon but serious risks include bleeding, a tear in the colon, and sedation reactions. Stool tests are guideline-supported options; repeat them on schedule. **A positive stool test requires colonoscopy.**[1,3]

## If you're due, ask about colonoscopy.

For those who can, Colonoscopy First.

## Read more. Bring your questions.

ColonoscopyFirst.org / Patient Resources

1. NIDDK: Colonoscopy. 2. FDA: Cologuard Plus SSED, 2024, Tables 17-18.
3. ACS screening guideline, 2026. 4. ASGE/ACG quality indicators, 2024.
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