Colorectal Cancer

Signs and Symptoms

Symptomatic colon cancer typically presents with 1-2 characteristic findings

Likelihood ratio:

5.31

2.47

4.62

1.74-2.44

3.48

Rectal Bleeding

Abdominal Pain



Anemia

Change in Bowel Habits



Weight Loss

Astin M et al. The diagnostic value of symptoms for colorectal cancer in primary care: a systematic review. British Journal of General Practice. 2011.

Thompson CA, Begi T, Parada H Jr. Alarming recent rises in early-onset colorectal cancer. Cancer. January 2022.

Rectal bleeding with concurrent anemia increases likelihood of a diagnosis of colorectal cancer

Likelihood Ratio 7.88
Positive Predictive Value 21.4%







Abdominal Pain



Anemia

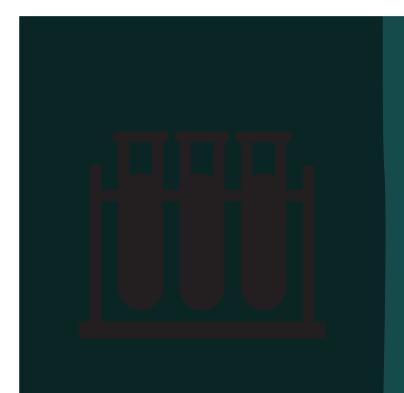


Change in Bowel Habits



Weight Loss

Astin M et al. The diagnostic value of symptoms for colorectal cancer in primary care: a systematic review. British Journal of General Practice. 2011.



Many patients present asymptomatically

- Incidental or screen detected: 3.4-14.6%
- Incidental or screen detected for age <50: 1.6-5.2%

Patel SG, et al. Updates on Age to Start and Stop Colorectal Cancer Screening: Recommendations From the U.S. Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer. Gastroenterology. January 2022.

Presentation depends on age of onset

	Age <50	Age ≥ 50
Presenting with symptoms (%)	86.4-95.6	33.9-79
Time to diagnosis	243 days	154 days
Advanced stage at diagnosis (%)	61.2-89	30.3-62.5

Patel SG, et al. Updates on Age to Start and Stop Colorectal Cancer Screening: Recommendations From the U.S. Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer. Gastroenterology. January 2022.

Symptoms depend on cancer location

		Age <50	Age ≥ 50			
Colon cancer						
• Hematochezia (%)		28.8	23.2			
Abdominal Pain (%)		41.2	27.2			
Rectal Cancer						
• Hematochezia (%)		60	59.3			
• Abdominal Pain (%)		15	7.4			

Chen FW, et al. Advanced-Stage Colorectal Cancer in Persons Younger Than 50 Years Not Associated With Longer Duration of Symptoms or Time to Diagnosis. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2017.