

# Colorectal Cancer

## Signs and Symptoms

Symptomatic colon cancer typically presents with 1-2 characteristic findings

Likelihood ratio:

5.31



**Rectal  
Bleeding**

2.47



**Abdominal  
Pain**

4.62



**Anemia**

1.74-2.44



**Change in  
Bowel Habits**

3.48



**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%



**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.



## Many patients present asymptotically

- 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
<b>Presenting with symptoms (%)</b>	86.4-95.6	33.9-79
<b>Time to diagnosis</b>	243 days	154 days
<b>Advanced stage at diagnosis (%)</b>	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
<b>Colon cancer</b>		
• Hematochezia (%)	28.8	23.2
• Abdominal Pain (%)	41.2	27.2
<b>Rectal Cancer</b>		
• 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.