

## UNDERSTANDING COLON CANCER

### GLOSSARY

**Oncogene:** Mutated gene that contributes to the development of cancer.

**Lynch Syndrome:** The most common cause of hereditary colorectal (colon) cancer. It is also known as hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (HNPCC).

**Rectal Cancer (or Colorectal Cancer):** Cancer that begins in the rectum, which is the last several inches of the large intestine.

**Immunotherapy:** Type of therapy that harnesses one's own immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.

### STAGES

- 1 The colon cancer is only a shallow tumor or polyp and has not spread to any lymph nodes.
- 2 The colon cancer tumor is thick and may be involving the colon or rectum but has not spread into the lymph nodes.
- 3 The cancer has spread to nearby lymph nodes.
- 4 The colon cancer has metastasized or spread to another organ in the body.

### RESOURCES

Downloadable  
Patient &  
Care Partner  
Office Visit  
Planners

[View Now](#)

Helpful Websites:

- [American Society of Clinical Oncology \(ASCO\)](#).
- [American Cancer Society \(ACS\)](#).
- [COLONTOWN](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Alliance](#)
- [MyBluem](#)
- [National Cancer Institute](#)
- [Stand Up to Cancer](#)

## COLON CANCER TREATMENT

### APPROACHES



**Radiation**



**Medication**



**Surgery**



**Clinical Trial**

### FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Cancer stage
- Biology of cancer
- Presence of molecular markers
- Patient goals
- Side effects

### EXPERT ADVICE



1. **Seek out an expert.** Find someone who specializes in colorectal cancer.
2. **Seek out support.** Organizations like COLONTOWN or MyBluem can help.
3. **Check your source.** Make sure the information you find is from a reliable source – look for .org, .gov, or .net.
4. **Get Screened.** First-degree relatives of someone with colorectal cancer should start screening by age 40 or 10 years younger than the youngest affected family member.