

# Why I Got Tested for Colorectal Cancer

*[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

Hi. I'm Dr. Lisa Richardson, an oncologist and director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. I'm over 50 and want to tell you about lifesaving tests for colorectal cancer we should *all* get when we turn 50. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer for men and women combined in the United States.

The word cancer can be frightening, but colorectal cancer is preventable through screening. Screening helps find abnormal growths, called polyps, in the colon or rectum. These can be removed before they ever turn into cancer. Screening also finds colorectal cancer early, when treatment is most effective.

I've heard many reasons for not getting tested, including:

- Why should I get tested? I don't have symptoms, I feel fine.
- It doesn't run in my family.
- I've heard about *that* test.

Polyps in the colon or rectum and colorectal cancer can start with no symptoms. The only way you'll know you're okay is if you get tested.

Most of the time, colorectal cancer occurs in people with no family history. Getting older is the number one reason people develop polyps and cancer.

If you don't want to get screened because you've heard about the screening test, called a colonoscopy, ask your doctor about other screening options.

I'm over 50 and I got tested because I know that colorectal cancer screening saves lives. If you're 50 or older, don't wait. Learn more at [cdc.gov/screenforlife](https://www.cdc.gov/screenforlife).

*[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.*