

FACING A DIAGNOSIS OF COLORECTAL CANCER

You are not alone.

Receiving the news of your diagnosis is hard, both mentally and emotionally. You may have a lot of questions, such as: Will I survive this? Why do I need all of these tests? How can I choose the best treatment? How will this affect my family? Can I afford treatment? It's important to know that you are not alone.

Ask your medical team questions. Visit [FightCRC.org](https://fightcrc.org), and remember Fight Colorectal Cancer is here for you because no one fights alone.

Let's take the first step together.

If you are diagnosed, the stage of the cancer must be established in order to determine the appropriate treatment. The stage tells you how far the tumor has grown into the colon wall, and if it has spread to other parts of the body.

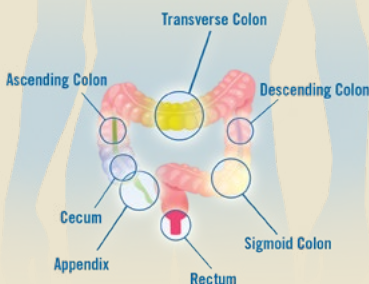
Stage 0 - (also called carcinoma in situ) - earliest stage; the cancer is located on the innermost layer of the colon wall.

Stage I - the cancer has spread to the second and third layer of the colon wall, but not to the outer colon wall or beyond.

Stage II - the cancer has spread through the colon wall without involving lymph nodes.

Stage III - the cancer has spread through the colon wall and into lymph nodes, but has not spread to other areas of the body.

Stage IV - the cancer has grown from the colon and spread to other areas of the body (i.e. liver and lungs).



NEED ANSWERS ABOUT COLORECTAL CANCER?

Fight CRC offers free educational resources, an online community, and monthly webinars.

Learn more. Ask questions.

For more specific information about screening visit: [FightCRC.org](https://fightcrc.org)

Call our free Resource Line at **1-877-427-2111**.

FIGHT COLORECTAL CANCER

MOVING FORWARD WITH YOUR DIAGNOSIS

DEPENDING ON THE CANCER STAGE, you may encounter different types of treatments. Don't hesitate to ask any questions of your medical team to make sure you understand all of your treatment options. Here are some to start with:

Q: Where is my cancer located?

Q: Has my cancer spread beyond where it started?

Q: What is the stage of my cancer and how will it affect my treatment options?

Q: Has my tumor been tested for biomarkers?

Q: What tests need to be done before we can decide on treatment?

Q: How much experience do you have treating this type of cancer?

Q: Should I get a second opinion?

Q: What treatment choices do I have?

Q: Are there financial assistance programs available to me?

Q: Do I qualify for a clinical trial?

Q: What are the risks or side effects of the treatments you suggest?

Q: Are there things I can do to reduce side effects?

Q: How long will treatment last? What will it involve? Where will it be done?

For more questions to ask your doctor, download *Your Guide in the Fight*.



**YOUR
GUIDE
★ IN THE ★
FIGHT**

FIGHT COLORECTAL CANCER

FREE DOWNLOAD

Your Guide in the Fight · Stage III & IV Colorectal Cancer

FightCRC.org/Guide

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