

COLORECTAL POLYPOSIS

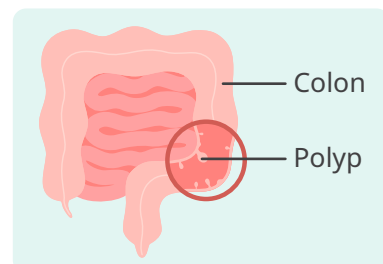
What is polyposis?

Polyposis (pronounced *paa-luh-poh-suhs*) is a health condition where many polyps (small bumps) grow in your colon throughout your lifetime.

What causes polyposis?

For most people, we do not know what causes their polyposis.

For some people, they are born with a change in their genes called a “mutation” or “pathogenic variant”. This means your gene is not working the way it should. Some gene changes can cause **polyposis syndromes**. Polyposis raises your risk of colon cancer and some pathogenic variants may also raise your risk of other types of cancers. Having a gene change does **not** mean you will get cancer — it only makes your chances higher.



If I have polyposis, what will happen next?

Your colonoscopist will talk to you about:

- Polyposis and what it means.
- How often you should get a colonoscopy and whether you need other types of cancer screening.
- Whether your biological relatives need to also have a colonoscopy to check for polyposis. This is because gene changes can be passed down from one generation to another (such as from one of your parents to you).
- Whether you are eligible for genetic testing. **Genetic testing** is done by taking a sample of your blood. The test looks for changes in your genes. It can find out if you have a gene change that may be causing polyposis.

Am I eligible for genetic testing? How can it help me and my family?

If you are eligible, your colonoscopist will help you decide whether to get genetic testing:

- If you choose to get tested, your colonoscopist will order the test and review the results with you. If the lab reports that a “pathogenic variant” was found, then you will also have an appointment with a genetic expert from the Hereditary Cancer Program. The results can help guide your medical care, including what type of cancer screening you should have and how often, tell you about your cancer risk, and whether your biological relatives need to be tested.
- If you choose to **not** get tested, your care will **not** be affected: your colonoscopist will continue to provide you care.
- If you are not eligible for genetic testing, your colonoscopist will continue to provide care.

No matter whether you have genetic testing, your colonoscopist will help you decide how often to have a colonoscopy and whether other types of screening are recommended.

Where can I get more information?

- Talk to your colonoscopist or primary care provider.
- Scan the QR code to watch a [video about genetic testing](#)



Questions to ask your colonoscopist:

- ☐ What is polyposis and what does it mean?
- ☐ When should I have my next colonoscopy?
- ☐ Should I get screening for my upper digestive system (esophagus, stomach and first part of my small intestine)?
- ☐ Do my biological relatives need to also have a colonoscopy to check for polyposis?
- ☐ Am I able to get genetic testing? How can the results help me?
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____