

ARE YOU OVER 40?

Minimize Your Cancer Risk

You Can Screen Yourself For Colorectal Cancer At Home

(NAPS)—Colorectal cancer strikes approximately 155,000 men and women in America each year and it is second only to lung cancer in frequency.

Here are answers to common questions about colorectal cancer and what you can do to screen for this disease early enough so that you can treat it successfully.

Q. What causes colorectal cancer?

A. Colorectal cancer begins in the lower portions of the gastrointestinal tract. It is most common in people over the age of 40. Risk factors include a history of the disease and of polyps, a diet low in fiber and high in fat and a personal history of inflammatory bowel disease.

Q. What are the early warning signs?

A. One of the signs of colorectal cancer and other bowel trouble is blood in the stool. In the early stages, however, blood is often present in small amounts and not visible to the naked eye.

Q. Can other diseases cause similar symptoms?

A. Yes. Gastrointestinal disorders, such as ulcers, polyps, colitis, diverticulitis and fissures, can all produce blood in the stool.

Q. Is colorectal cancer treatable?

A. While it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, it can be treated successfully if detected early. In more than 75 percent of patients, it can be surgically corrected with no effect on lifestyle.

Q. Who should be tested?

A. The American Cancer Society recommends that men and women over the age of 40 screen for blood in the stool once a year. If a person has a family history of



An easy, at-home screening test can help you assess your risk for colorectal cancer.

colorectal cancer, testing should be performed more often or as the doctor recommends.

Q. Is there a screening test that can be done at home?

A. Yes. A stool blood test kit, such as EZ Detect™ by Biomerica, is a screening test for detecting hidden blood in the stool.

Q. Is the test difficult to use?

A. No. The test does not require handling of the stool, no laboratory processing and no diet restrictions. Simply drop a test pad in the toilet bowl after a bowel movement and if blood is detected, a color change will appear within two minutes.

Q. How can I get the test?

A. EZ Detect™ is available at Walgreens, Sav-on, Osco, CVS Pharmacy and independent drug stores nationwide. You can ask your pharmacist for EZ Detect™ Hidden Blood in the Stool test. It is also available on the EZ Detect™ Web site: www.ezdetect.com. Type in the code number NAPS and you will receive the test at the promotional price of \$7.99 which includes shipping, or call 1-800-854-3002 for further assistance.

Note to Editors: March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.