

Patient information on colorectal cancer screening

Ladies and Gentlemen,

33,000 people die every year in Germany from colon cancer and there are more than **75,000 new cases** per year.

This makes colon cancer the second most frequent of all tumours in men and women. The risk of occurrence after 65 is about 1 in 33 and rises twofold to fourfold if close relatives have had colon cancer.

In 500,000 preventive examinations in Germany during the past three years, every 10th patient examined already showed a precursor of colon cancer, a so-called polyp, whereas colon cancer was found in one patient out of 200 who had no sign of discomfort. With the implementation of an aftercare program (re-exam after three years) for all patients who had a polyp, the probability of colon cancer was lowered to below 1%.

Risks involved in endoscopic examinations are very low and depend on whether precancerous conditions (polyps) are found, which can be removed during the procedure.

There is a 1 in 1000 risk that, within 7 days after a polyp removal, abdominal pain may occur where the polyp was removed, or bleeding may occur that requires subsequent treatment. It is recommended, therefore, not do participate in sports for a week. Taking blood thinners, such as aspirin, should be discussed individually, but is usually possible. Marcumar / Warfarin, should be substituted with Heparin (abdominal injection).

Do take advantage of this preventive examination and convince your relatives and friends that they should also have one. The sooner, the better.

Sincerely yours

Dr. Moritz Hanig
Dr. Sabine Blau
Dr. Martin Seip
Dr. Ann-Christin Borchers