



**Press Release**  
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**Media Contact**  
Stephen Kuehler | [stephen.kuehler@knoxhospital.org](mailto:stephen.kuehler@knoxhospital.org)  
940-657-3535

## **Screening for Colorectal Cancer Essential for Early Detection**

*Education and screenings are critical to prevent complications from the disease.*

KNOX CITY, Texas (March 4, 2022) – Of cancers that affect both men and women across the United States, colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Excluding skin cancers, it is the third most commonly diagnosed disease. Despite the dangers, the disease typically can be treated if detected early through advanced screening.

Generally referred to as colon cancer, the disease forms in the tissues of both the colon or rectum. Although more common among men, physicians quickly point out that women should not take the risk lightly as they are just as vulnerable.

“Statically speaking, both men and women are almost equally as likely to develop colon cancer. That means the level of awareness and screening is imperative for both sexes,” Says Dr. Leon Joplin, physician in Knox City. “As with many common diseases facing our community, having ongoing discussion about overall health is critical in saving lives.”

More than 106,000 new cases of colorectal cancer are estimated to be diagnosed in 2022 according to the American Cancer Society. The disease is expected to cause more than 52,580 deaths this year. As with many cancers, colorectal cancer can be successfully treated if diagnosed early. Unfortunately, symptoms may not appear until cancer has grown to an advanced stage.

Symptoms of colon cancer commonly include stomach aches and pains that do not go away, blood in or on the stool, and sudden weight loss.

“We often find that patients are uncomfortable with discussing colon cancer with their medical providers,” Dr. Joplin says. “I always stress the importance of disregarding modesty when it comes to

your health. This is especially true when discussing symptoms you may be experiencing.”

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Individuals over the age of 50 are most at risk of developing colon cancer. Those who have a family history of the disease are at an increased risk.

Dr. Joplin says there are several screening tests available for colorectal cancer. Options include fecal blood tests that are used to detect hidden blood in feces. Procedures such as flexible sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy are very effective methods to check for cancer.

A double-contrast barium enema can also be used for screening, which is an x-ray examination that allows a radiologist to view the entire colon.

As always, it is best to talk with your primary care provider to determine which screening method is right for you.

Medicare and most private health insurance plans cover routine tests for colorectal cancer. A referral from your medical provider is required.

For more information about colorectal cancer, your risks, and whether a colonoscopy is right for you, contact your primary medical at the Knox City Clinic 940-657-3906 or Munday Clinic at 940-422-5271.

**About Knox County Hospital District:** Founded in 1926, Knox County Hospital District provides healthcare for residents of Knox County and surrounding areas. The district offers a wealth of medical services, including 24-hour emergency care, advanced radiology services, a clinical laboratory, physical therapy, patient education, and more. For additional information, please call 940-657-3535.

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