

Temiskaming Hospital

February 18, 2009

Colorectal Cancer (or Colon Cancer)...When Should You Be Screened?

Did you know that colorectal cancer is the most common cause of non-tobacco related cancer deaths in Canadian men and women, accounting for 10% of all cancer deaths? It is typically a slow growing cancer and therefore screening programs are particularly effective. However, current information demonstrates that fewer than 20 per cent of men and women 50 years and older are screened by any method.

Guidelines recommend that individuals aged 50 or over who, despite having no family history of colorectal cancer or any symptoms are still at average risk of developing colorectal cancer and should undergo screening with the fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) as part of their periodic health exam.

Individuals who are at increased risk because of a family history of colorectal cancer (one or more first degree relatives with colorectal cancer), have a positive FOBT, or with an abnormality detected, should be referred for colonoscopy. For those at increased risk because of family history, screening should begin at the age of 50 years, or 10 years earlier than the relative's diagnosis, whichever comes first.

Funding for additional hospital-based colonoscopies has been provided across the province for individuals at increased risk because of a family history of colorectal cancer, and those who have a positive FOBT. This funding has assisted Temiskaming Hospital to increase its capacity to meet the growing demand and target people who are at increased risk.

Colorectal cancer can be cured 90 per cent of the time if detected early through regular screening. So, if you are at average or increased risk of developing colorectal cancer, talk to your health care provider about screening.

Screening and early detection saves lives.



Temiskaming Hospital
(705) 647-8121
www.temihosp.on.ca

Visiting Hours:

- 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for medical patients, surgical patients and Long-Term Care patients;
- 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for obstetrics patients;
- Visitors to the Special Care Unit (SCU) are restricted to immediate family and/or significant other(s).