

Mayo Clinic Minute

Aspirin's role in preventing and stopping the spread of cancer

Video	Audio
FRANK SINICROPE, M.D. GASTROENTEROLOGY AND ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	“Certainly, the evidence indicates we’ve underestimated what the potential for aspirin really is.”
	Since becoming a medicine cabinet staple in the late 1800s, aspirin may be the closest thing we have to a “wonder drug.”
	It helps with aches and pains, and to lower the risk of heart attack, but Dr. Frank Sinicrope with Mayo Clinic says aspirin may help prevent cancer and even lower the risk of dying from certain kinds of cancer.
FRANK SINICROPE, M.D. GASTROENTEROLOGY AND ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	“The ability of aspirin was shown to reduce the risk of dying from colorectal cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and lung cancer.”
	Dr. Sinicrope says more study is needed to understand why aspirin is so effective, but he believes it’s related to the ability of aspirin to reduce inflammation.
FRANK SINICROPE, M.D. GASTROENTEROLOGY AND ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	“Over time, we’ve appreciated that cancer is, develops due to chronic inflammation.”
	Aspirin happens to be very effective at reducing inflammation, and that’s likely the key to how it can prevent or slow the spread of cancer.
	Dr. Sinicrope says aspirin has a relatively low risk of side effects, but bleeding from the GI tract and hemorrhagic strokes are possible, so patients should talk with their doctor before taking it on a long term basis.

For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm
Ian Roth.