

## Mayo Clinic Minute: Breaking down colorectal cancer

Video	Audio
David Etzioni, M.D. Colon and Rectal Surgery Mayo Clinic	"Colorectal cancer is a type of cancer that arises from the skin that lines the inner surface of the colon and rectum."
	Dr. David Etzioni says the colon and the rectum are in effect the same.
	"The colon and rectum are what we call the large intestine. It's about 5 feet long and is the last part of the GI (gastrointestinal) tract, just before the GI stream exits the body."
	"The rectum is the last 12 to 14 centimeters of the large intestine. And while they are somewhat geographically distinct, they are in effect one that runs into the other."
	Colon and rectal cancers are similar in many ways, but their treatment can be quite different, depending on stage and location.
	"Usually when we find a colon cancer or rectal cancer, the operation involves removing a portion of the colon or rectum."
	Dr. Etzioni says it's much more effective to treat an earlier-stage cancer than a later one, and that's why screening is so important.
	"Colorectal cancer screening is one of the most effective types of screening for a cancer because not only can we detect an early-stage cancer, but we can actually prevent a cancer from developing."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.