

Mayo Clinic Minute: Advancing colorectal cancer care through innovation and screening

Colorectal cancer is increasingly affecting younger adults — a concerning trend. Dr. Eric Dozois, a Mayo Clinic colon and rectal surgeon, says about [10%](#) of patients diagnosed in 2026 will be under age 50, compared with 3% to 4% just 25 years ago.

As the trend continues, Mayo Clinic surgical teams are using innovative, minimally invasive approaches to treat colorectal cancer — helping patients recover faster after surgery.

Dr. Dozois says screening helps detect and treat colorectal cancer early, and improvements in surgery are helping patients maintain quality of life.

Video.	Audi
Eric Dozois, M.D. Colon and Rectal Surgery Mayo Clinic	"We are seeing a pattern of younger patients with colorectal cancer, and when I say younger, I mean patients under age 50."
	Colon cancer is often treated with surgery.
	"When we see patients with a new colon cancer, we're often recommending surgery, which is to remove a segment of the colon."
	Rectal cancer may require a combination of therapies.
	"It may get treatment with chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. It might be all three, and that's what we call a multimodality approach."
	Minimally invasive surgery, including laparoscopic and robotic approaches, uses small incisions, cameras and specialized instruments.
	"Patients can recover more quickly, they have less complications, and they can get back to their activities and work in a much quicker fashion than they used to in the past."
	"Screening is critical. Why? Because it saves lives."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland