

Colon Polyps



Overview

These are small, fleshy growths that stick out from the walls of your large intestine. In most cases, they are harmless. But over time, some polyps can become cancerous.

Causes

Colon polyps are caused by abnormal tissue growth. They develop when cells in the lining of your intestine grow and divide excessively. The overgrowth of tissue forms clumps of cells.

Symptoms

In many cases, colon polyps don't cause any noticeable symptoms. But they can cause rectal bleeding. This can change the color of your stools. If you bleed for a long time, you may develop an iron deficiency in your blood called "anemia." Colon polyps can cause constipation or diarrhea. If a polyp blocks your intestine, you may feel pain. You may experience nausea and vomiting.

Treatment

Colon polyps can be removed during a procedure called a "colon polypectomy." In many cases, polyps are found and removed with a snare during a colonoscopy (a routine examination of the colon). If you have very large polyps, polyps that are difficult to reach or certain disorders of the colon, you may benefit from a different procedure. Your healthcare provider can create a care plan that is right for your needs.

