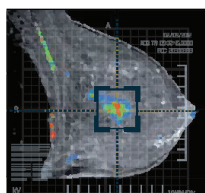


CANCERS FOR WHICH SCREENING OF AVERAGE-RISK INDIVIDUALS HAS BEEN OR IS RECOMMENDED

Highlighted here are cancer screening tests that have been used, at some time or another, to screen large segments of the U.S. population who are at average risk for the cancer being screened for. When to use these tests and in whom is discussed elsewhere (see **Who Should Be Screened, When Should They Be Screened, and Why?** p. XX).

Breast Cancer



Screening mammogram:

Uses X-rays to image the breast.

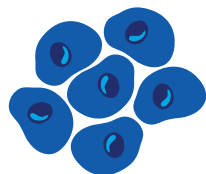
The information generated by the procedure can be stored on film (a conventional mammogram) or electronically

(a digital mammogram).

In most cases, the image is 2-dimensional but some machines generate 3-dimensional images in a process called breast tomosynthesis.

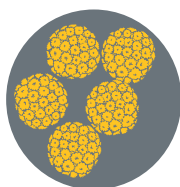
Can detect breast cancers that cannot be felt. These cancers can be at any stage of development, but the aim of screening is to find them at the earliest possible stage.

Cervical Cancer



Pap test: Samples cervical cells, which are analyzed under a microscope to look for abnormalities.

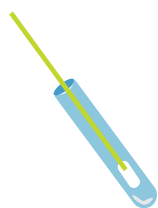
Can detect precancerous or cancerous cervical lesions, but the aim of screening is to find them at the earliest possible stage.



HPV test: Detects the presence of certain cervical cancer-causing types of human papillomavirus (HPV).

Does not directly detect precancerous or cancerous cervical lesions, but identifies people for whom follow-up is recommended.

Colorectal Cancer



Stool tests: Some test for the presence of blood in stool samples. Others test for both blood and certain molecular alterations linked to colorectal cancer.

Do not directly detect colorectal precancerous lesions or cancers, but identify people for whom further testing is recommended.



Flexible sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy:

Both use a thin, flexible, lighted tube with a small video camera on the end to allow physicians to look at the lining of certain parts of the colon and rectum.

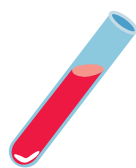
Can detect colorectal precancerous lesions or cancers, but the aim of screening is to find them at the earliest possible stage so that they can be removed.



Computed tomography (CT) colonography (virtual colonoscopy) and double-contrast barium enema:

Use X-rays to image the colon and rectum.

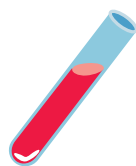
Can detect colorectal precancerous lesions or cancers, but the aim of screening is to find them at the earliest possible stage so that they can be removed.



Blood test: Detects epigenetic abnormalities linked to colorectal cancer in blood.

Does not directly detect colorectal precancerous lesions or cancers, but identifies people for whom further testing is recommended.

Prostate Cancer



PSA test: Measures the level of the protein prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in blood.

Does not directly detect prostate cancer, but the blood level of PSA is often elevated in men with prostate cancer. Thus, the test identifies men for whom further testing is recommended.

Adapted from (36)