

Bowel Cancer Factsheet

English



Bowel cancer

You might also hear bowel cancer being called colorectal cancer.

Over 35,500 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer each year in the UK.

When bowel cancer is found early, around 9 out of 10 people can be cured.

What should I look out for?

These symptoms are unlikely to be caused by cancer but it is best to get them checked out with your doctor.

If you notice any of these symptoms and they last longer than 4-6 weeks, tell your doctor.

- **Bleeding from your bottom or blood in your poo (bowel motion) without any obvious reason. The blood may be dark or bright red in colour.**
- **A change in your normal bowel habit (such as diarrhoea or constipation) for no obvious reason, lasting longer than six weeks**
- **Unexplained weight loss**
- **Pain in the tummy (abdomen) or back passage**
- **A feeling of not having emptied your bowel properly after a bowel motion.**

In most cases, it won't be cancer but people who notice any of these symptoms should see their doctor. The symptoms may have other causes, but it is best to make an appointment to have them checked out with your GP.

If you have questions about your health you can contact NHS Direct on **0845 4647**

Sources: Cancerbackup UK and Beating Bowel Cancer.

Manchester Public Health Development Service