

Monthly La Costa Newsletter

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Myths and Facts About Colorectal Cancer

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. For many people, the discussion of this type of cancer is shrouded in embarrassment and misunderstandings. This can lead to a reduction in testing and treatment. Here are some myths and realities about this cancer. Knowing them could save your life or the life of your loved ones.

Myth: Colon and rectal cancers are rare.

These types of cancer are actually quite common. In 2005, almost 150,000 Americans were diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

Myth: Colorectal cancer is usually fatal.

When detected early, colorectal cancer is usually curable. That is why routine screening is so important. If colon cancer is found early and treated, the 5-year survival rate is 90 percent. Starting at age 50, men and women of average risk should be screened regularly. High risk groups, including those with a personal or family history of the disease and African Americans, should begin screening at age 45 or sooner if their doctor suggests it.

Myth: Most of those who get colorectal cancer are older, white men.

In fact, an equal number of men and women get colorectal cancer. African Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer at a later stage in the disease and are often younger when diagnosed.

Myth: You only need screening once you see symptoms.

As with many types of cancer, the disease may be more advanced once symptoms are presented. About 75 percent of all new cases of this type of cancer occur in individuals with no known risk factors and no presentation of symptoms.



St. Patty's Day Recipes for Kids

This St. Patrick's Day celebrate with some of these fun, and very green, treats!

Leprechaun Punch

- 1/2 gallon lime sherbet
- 2 liter bottle of lemon-lime soda

Let the sherbet soften somewhat. Scoop the sherbet into a large punch bowl and slowly add the soda. Serve immediately.

St. Patrick's Day Green Punch

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 pkgs. Kool-Aid (any green flavor)
- 2 cups water
- 1 6-oz. can frozen orange juice
- 1 pt. pineapple juice
- 1 qt. pineapple sherbet
- 2 liter bottle of ginger ale

Mix sugar, Kool-Aid and water in a saucepan. Place over low heat and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Add the juices and additional water and ice to make one gallon. Scoop the sherbet into a large punch bowl. Add the juice mixture and the ginger ale.

Irish Fluff

- 1 12-oz. container of cottage cheese
- 1 container of Cool Whip
- 1 large can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 small box Lime Jell-O

Mix all ingredients together and chill well.



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Spring Recipes

Cooking seasonally is a great way to get quality produce at its very best and making dishes that truly complement those flavors. Springtime vegetables and fruits are featured in these great recipes.

Asparagus Quiche

- 1 frozen 9-inch pie crust, unbaked
- 1/2 pound asparagus
- 1/2 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 6 eggs
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon dried onion flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper



Bake pie crust in a 450 degree F oven for 10-12 minutes or until pastry is set and dry. Remove the woody ends of the asparagus. Cut the remaining asparagus into 1-inch sections and cook in boiling water for about 5 minutes. Drain and arrange asparagus in bottom of baked pastry shell. Sprinkle with the shredded Swiss cheese. In a mixing bowl, beat the eggs and blend in sour cream, milk, onion, salt, and pepper. Pour into pastry shell. Bake in a 375 degree oven for 35 to 40 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Let stand for 10 minutes before cutting.

Strawberry and Spinach Salad

- 1 pint strawberries, with hulls removed and sliced
- 2 bunches fresh spinach leaves, washed and torn into small pieces
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 tablespoons minced green onion
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup balsamic or cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds

In a large bowl, place strawberries and spinach leaves. In a separate bowl, combine remaining ingredients and whisk until well blended. Pour dressing over spinach and strawberries and toss.





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