

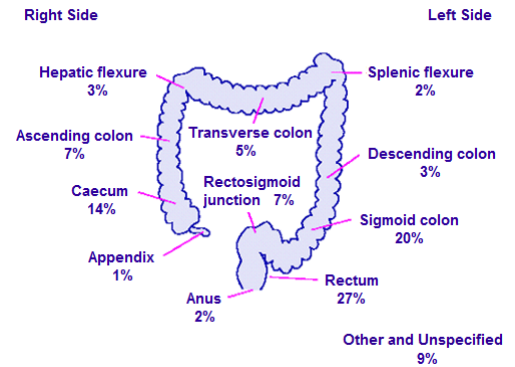


large bowel cancer

(colorectal cancer)

How common is *large bowel cancer*?

- ▶ Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in the UK.
- ▶ Just under 40,000 people were diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2008 in the UK, that's around 110 people every day.
- ▶ Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in women after breast and lung cancer with around 17,900 new cases diagnosed in the UK in 2008.
- ▶ In 2008, around 22,100 men were diagnosed with bowel cancer in the UK making it the third most common cancer in men after prostate and lung cancer.
- ▶ More than 8 out of 10 bowel cancer cases occur in people aged 60 and over.
- ▶ Bowel cancer incidence rates have remained relatively stable for over a decade.
- ▶ In Europe (EU27) there were an estimated 334,000 new cases of bowel cancer diagnosed in 2008.
- ▶ Worldwide, an estimated 1.24 million new cases of bowel cancer were diagnosed in 2008.
- ▶ The lowest incidence rates of bowel cancer are seen in South Central Asia, and Middle African countries. The highest rates are in Europe, North America and Australasia.



How many people survive *large bowel cancer*?

- ▶ Five-year survival rates for bowel cancer have doubled over the last 40 years.
- ▶ Half of patients diagnosed with bowel cancer will survive their disease for at least ten years.
- ▶ People diagnosed with bowel cancer are now twice as likely to survive their disease for at least ten years than those diagnosed in the early 1970s.
- ▶ Research suggests over 90% of bowel cancer patients will survive the disease for more than five years if diagnosed at the earliest stage.
- ▶ Younger bowel cancer patients have a better prognosis than older patients.

How many people die from *large bowel cancer*?

- ▶ Bowel cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in the UK after lung cancer.
- ▶ Around 15,900 people died of bowel cancer in 2009 in the UK, that's around 45 people every day.
- ▶ Bowel cancer death rates have been falling since the late 1970s. Over the last decade death rates have dropped by around 14%.
- ▶ In 2008 almost 149,000 people died from bowel cancer in Europe (EU-27).
- ▶ Worldwide bowel cancer killed more than 600,000 people in 2008, more than half of these deaths are in the more developed regions of the world.



What causes *large bowel cancer*?

- ▶ High intake of red and processed meat will increase the chances of developing bowel cancer whereas a diet rich in fibre will reduce your risk.
- ▶ Around 13% of bowel cancers in the UK are linked to overweight or obesity.
- ▶ Being physically active reduces risk of colon cancer.
- ▶ Research has shown that drinking as little as 10g/day of alcohol (around 1 unit) can increase the risk of bowel cancer.
- ▶ Smoking increases risk of bowel cancer.
- ▶ People with a first degree relative with bowel cancer are at twice the average risk of developing it themselves.
- ▶ People with diabetes, ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease all have an increased risk of bowel cancer.

Screening for *large bowel cancer*

- ▶ The NHS Bowel Screening Programme began in England in 2006, Scotland in 2007, Wales in 2008 and in Northern Ireland in 2010.
- ▶ There could be up to 20,000 fewer deaths from bowel cancer over the next 20 years if just 60% of those eligible took up the invitation for bowel screening.

Bowel cancer - UK	Males	Females	Persons
Number of new cases (2008)	22,097	17,894	39,991
Rate per 100,000 population*	58.5	37.8	47.2
Number of deaths (2009)	8,600	7,308	15,908
Rate per 100,000 population*	21.4	13.4	17.0
Five-year survival rate – colon cancer (adult patients 2001-2006, England)	50%	51%	-
Five-year survival rate – rectal cancer (adult patients 2001-2006, England)	51%	55%	-
Ten-year survival rate – colon cancer (estimates of predicted survival for adult patients in 2007, England & Wales)	-	-	50.4%
Ten-year survival rate – rectal cancer (estimates of predicted survival for adult patients in 2007, England & Wales)	-	-	49.3%

**age-standardised to the European population*

Cancer Research UK's 'CancerStats – Key Facts' series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity's Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website:

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats> or by emailing stats.team@cancer.org.uk.