

How common is bowel cancer?

- Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK and the second biggest cancer killer
- Nearly 43,000 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer every year in the UK
- Around 268,000 people living in the UK today have been diagnosed with bowel cancer
- More than nine out of ten new cases (94%) are diagnosed in people over the age of 50, and nearly six out of ten cases (59%) are diagnosed in people aged 70 or over. But bowel cancer can affect anyone of any age. More than 2,600 new cases are diagnosed each year in people under the age of 50.
- 1 in 15 men and 1 in 18 women will be diagnosed with bowel cancer during their lifetime

How many people survive bowel cancer?

- Bowel cancer is treatable and curable especially if diagnosed early
- Nearly everyone survives bowel cancer if diagnosed at the earliest stage. However this drops significantly as the disease develops. Early diagnosis really does save lives
- More than 16,800 people die from bowel cancer in the UK every year. It's the second biggest cancer killer in the UK. But the number of people dying of bowel cancer has been falling since the 1970s. This may be due to earlier diagnosis and better treatment

See your GP if you have any symptoms of a bowel problem or if you're worried about a close family history of bowel cancer. Even if you've taken part in bowel cancer screening, you should still report any symptoms to your GP as soon as possible. Don't worry about wasting your GP's time. If you're worried that something is wrong, they'll want to see you.

If you've already seen your GP but you're still getting symptoms, go back to see them again. Your GP may be able to put your mind at rest. If you do have a medical problem, the earlier you get a diagnosis, the better the chance of successful treatment and cure.

If you have any symptoms which are worrying you speak to our reception team today