

# Shield™ test results: What do I need to know?

## What is the Shield™ test?

Shield™ is a blood test that looks for signs of colorectal cancer

## What do Shield™ test results mean?

### Positive (+) Test Result

If your test result is positive:

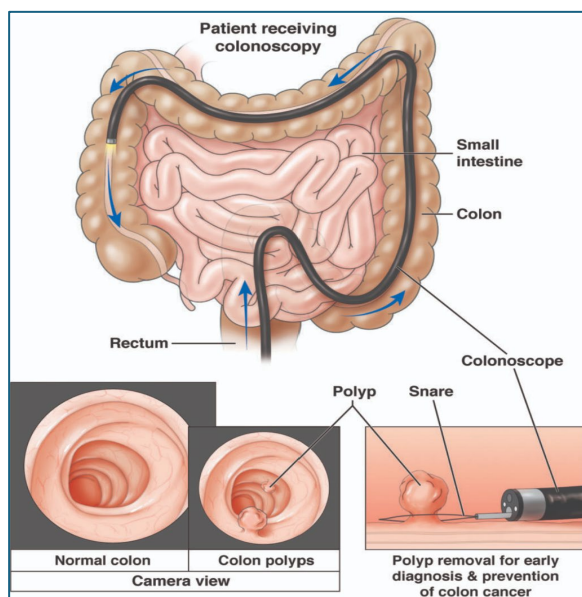
- The result does not mean that you have colorectal cancer.
- A follow-up colonoscopy is recommended.
- There is a chance of finding colorectal cancer or polyps (pre-cancerous growths in the colon) during the colonoscopy.

### Negative (-) Test Result

If your test result is negative:

- The result indicates a signal for colorectal cancer was not detected.
- Follow-up colonoscopy is NOT recommended at this time.
- Check with your provider about how to stay up to date with colorectal cancer screening.

## What is involved in having a follow-up colonoscopy?



- A few days before the colonoscopy, you will be asked to change your diet and you will be prescribed a laxative to clean your bowel.
- The day of the colonoscopy:
  - You will be given medicine through a needle in your arm that will put you into a light sleep.
  - Your doctor will insert a long, narrow, flexible lighted tube to see the entire colon. The procedure is not painful.
- You will need a ride home.

## What is likely to be found with a follow-up colonoscopy?

Out of **100 people** who have a **positive Shield™ test result** and have follow-up colonoscopy:



**About 3 people** will be found to have colorectal cancer.<sup>1</sup>



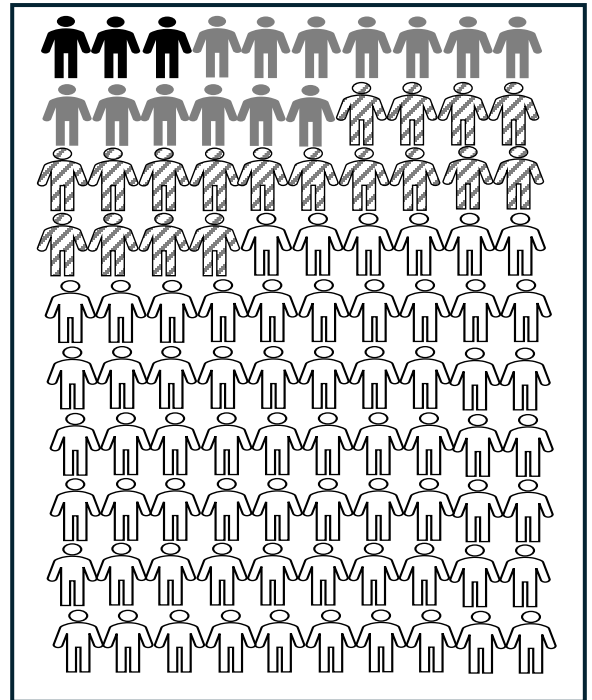
**About 13 people** will be found to have precancerous polyps (advanced adenomas) that can be removed.<sup>1</sup>



**About 18 people** may have smaller polyps that can also be removed.<sup>2</sup>



**The remaining people** are not likely to have cancer or polyps.



## What are the possible benefits and risks related to having and not having a follow-up colonoscopy?

### Benefits

- If polyps are found, they can be removed before becoming cancer.
- If early-stage cancer is found, you can have treatment that can result in cure.
- If later stage cancer is found, you can have treatment that may result in cure and may help to maintain the quality and length of life.

### Risks

- Risks of having colonoscopy are considered low and include: injury to the colon wall, uncontrolled bleeding from tissue removal, infection requiring antibiotics, and abnormal reaction to anesthesia.
- Not having a colonoscopy after a positive Shield™ test increases the chance of late diagnosis and delayed treatment of colorectal cancer and polyps.

**It is important to make a well-informed decision about having a follow-up colonoscopy**

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IRB NUMBER: IRISID-2026-0275

Approval Date: 06/05/2026

<sup>1</sup> Chung et al. A cell-free DNA blood-based test for colorectal cancer screening. NEJM 2024 Mar 14;390(11):973-83.; Heitman et al. Prevalence of Adenomas and

<sup>2</sup>Colorectal Cancer in Average Risk Individuals: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Volume 12, Issue 12, 1272 - 1278