

A MINUTE OF HEALTH WITH CDC

Don't Pass on this Test

Use of Colorectal Cancer Tests — United States, 2002, 2004, and 2006 Recorded: March 25, 2008; posted: March 27, 2008

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Colonoscopy. It's often the subject of jokes. But this life-saving procedure is no laughing matter. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. A recent CDC study indicated that, in 2004, nearly 150,000 Americans were diagnosed with colon cancer and over 53,000 died. But like most cancers, colorectal cancer is most treatable if caught early. Adults over the age of 50 are at highest risk. If you're in this risk group, contact your doctor to schedule a screening test, and while you're at it, call a friend and recommend they do the same.

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