

What is a FIT-Fecal DNA Test?

What it is:

- A FIT-Fecal DNA test test, such as Cologuard®, is a stool-based screening test for colorectal cancer that is used for people at average risk for colon cancer who are age 45 years or older. The cost is typically around \$600.
- If positive, this test must be followed up with colonoscopy.
- If negative, this test should be repeated in three years.

What it is NOT:

- A test for patients who have previously had colorectal polyps or cancer.
- A test for patients with a strong family history of colon cancer.

Other facts about the FIT-Fecal DNA test:

- It costs 20-30 times more than the other stool screening test available, Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT), with only a modest improvement in performance.
- If positive, a diagnostic colonoscopy should be performed to determine if polyps or cancer are present in the colon.
Colonoscopy for a positive FIT-fecal DNA test is considered part of the continuum of care for colon cancer screening. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the colonoscopy.
- It should be performed every three years, whereas screening colonoscopies can be performed every 10 years in people without any polyps or cancer history.
- It has a high false positive rate – especially in older patients.

*Your doctor can help you determine which screening test is appropriate for you.
For more information, visit ValueOfColonoscopy.org*

