

# Lasting drop seen in CRC incidence, death after negative colonoscopy

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(HealthDay)—Colorectal cancer (CRC) incidence and mortality are

reduced for a period of 17.4 years following a single negative screening colonoscopy, according to a study published online May 26 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Nastazja Dagny Pilonis, M.D., from the Maria Sklodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, Poland, and colleagues examined the long-term risk for CRC and death from CRC after a high- and low-quality single negative screening [colonoscopy](#) among average-risk individuals aged 50 to 66 years. A total of 165,887 individuals were followed for up to 17.4 years.

The researchers found that compared with the [general population](#), CRC incidence and [mortality](#) were 72 and 81 percent lower, respectively, in the study population. Compared with low-quality examination, high-quality examination resulted in twofold lower CRC incidence and mortality (standardized incidence ratios [SIRs], 0.16 and 0.10 versus 0.32 and 0.22, respectively). The hazard ratios for CRC incidence after high- versus low-quality colonoscopy were 0.55, 0.54, and 0.46 for zero to five, 5.1 to 10, and 10.1 to 17.4 years, respectively, in a multivariable analysis. The SIR and standardized mortality ratio for 10.1 to 17.4 years of follow-up did not differ compared with earlier observation periods after high-quality colonoscopy only.

"These results suggest that the currently recommended 10-year interval for screening colonoscopy is safe and could potentially be extended, provided that quality metrics are universally assessed and the baseline examination meets recommended standards," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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