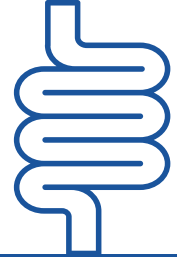


ANATOMY OF THE LARGE INTESTINE



The **colon** is a **6 foot** muscular tube connecting the **small intestine to the rectum**. The **rectum** is a **6–8 inch storage chamber** that connects the **colon to the anus**.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COLON

- **Compact chyme** (liquified food)
- **Absorb excess water** from chyme
- **Receive B-vitamins** produced by intestinal bacteria
- **Move** chyme and dead bacteria into the rectum

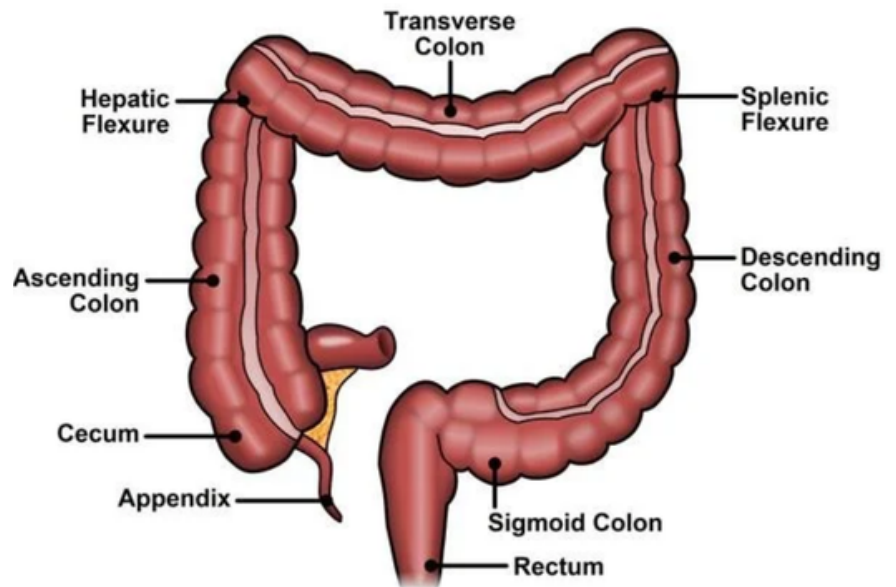


Image source: <https://medilexinc.com/a-spoonful-of-medicine-blog/colon-anatomy-and-colonoscopy>

FROM POLYP TO CANCER

- Polyps begin developing in the innermost wall (**mucosa**) of the colon or rectum.
- Some can become **cancerous and grow through the layers** of the colon or rectum wall.
- The cancer can grow to the outer layers of the wall and **spread to nearby lymph nodes or tissue**.

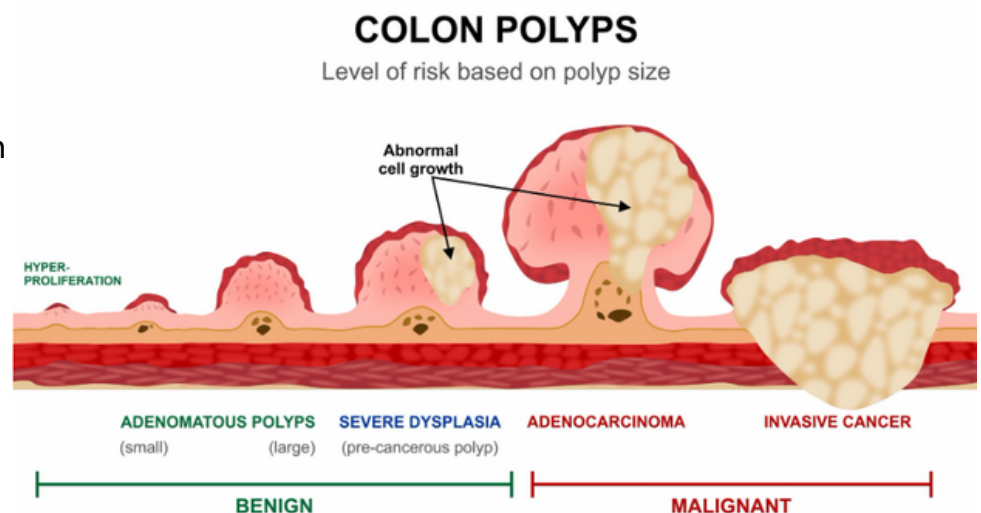


Image source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Stages-of-colorectal-cancer-Hyperproliferation-of-epithelial-cells-forms-a-growth_fig1_344770489