



Colon Cancer

Colon Cancer

- Causes 655,000 deaths per year
- Very treatable if caught early
- Very deadly if caught late
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVqgtUHP2z8&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1

Polyps

- Adenomatous Polyps: mushroom-shaped growths in the colon that can easily be removed
- Usually benign (non-cancerous)
- If left un treated, may turn into cancer



What causes colon cancer?

- APC gene: tumor suppressor that puts on the brakes in the cell cycle
- If APC is turned off, the cells continue to divide uncontrollably



APC^{min} mouse colon

What causes colon cancer?

- FAP: Familial Adenomatous Polyposis
- Genetic disorder that results in colon cancer at an early age
- Polyps can begin forming in the teen years
- Caused by mutation in APC or MUTYH gene



Symptoms

- Unfortunately, symptoms don't appear until tumors have progressed to a dangerous point
- Blood in stool
- Constipation
- Anemia
- Weight loss
- Abdominal pain

Treatment

- Removal of polyps and tumors
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation



Prevention

- Colonoscopy at age 50
- Diet full of fruits and veggies
- Diet low in animal fat
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Be active
- Know your family history
- Don't smoke
- Reduce radiation exposure



GI Disorder Pamphlet

- Create a pamphlet like you see in doctors' offices for a GI disorder
- You must include:
 - Name of disorder
 - Symptoms
 - Causes
 - Treatment
 - Prevention
 - Diagram or picture of some sort