



Case Presentation:

80-year old woman with mid-stage Alzheimer's Disease

Is at increased risk for colon cancer (history of adenomatous polyps, family history of colorectal cancer), has not had a colonoscopy for 10 years

Has no other significant medical issues



American Cancer Society recommendations for **colorectal cancer** early detection

People at average risk

The American Cancer Society believes that preventing colorectal cancer (and not just finding it early) should be a major reason for getting tested. Finding and removing polyps keeps some people from getting colorectal cancer. Tests that have the best chance of finding both polyps and cancer are preferred if these tests are available to you and you are willing to have them.

Beginning at age 50, both men and women at *average risk* for developing colorectal cancer should use one of the screening tests below:

Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years*

Colonoscopy every 10 years

Double-contrast barium enema every 5 years*

CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every 5 years*

Some characteristics of mid-stage Alzheimer's Disease

Lose awareness of recent experiences as well as of their surroundings

Remember their own name but have difficulty with their personal history

Need help dressing properly

Experience major changes in sleep patterns

Need help handling details of toileting

Have increasingly frequent trouble controlling their bladder or bowels

Experience major personality and behavioral changes

Tend to wander or become lost



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QUESTION:

Should patient have scheduled colonoscopy?