



Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center

Community M A T T E R S

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NEWS FROM MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER

Resources

Blood/Platelet Donor Program

212-639-7643

Construction Information

212-639-4444

Making an Appointment

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Study Finds Colonoscopy Screening Helps to Save Lives

For the first time, a new study led by researchers at Memorial Sloan-Kettering has shown that removing polyps (precancerous lesions) by colonoscopy not only prevents colorectal cancer from developing, but also prevents deaths from the disease. Patients in the study were evaluated for up to 23 years after having the procedure, providing the longest follow-up results to date. “Our findings provide strong reassurance that there is a long-term benefit to removing these polyps and support continued recommendations of screening colonoscopy in people over age

50,” said the study’s lead author Dr. Ann G. Zauber, a biostatistician at Memorial Sloan-Kettering.

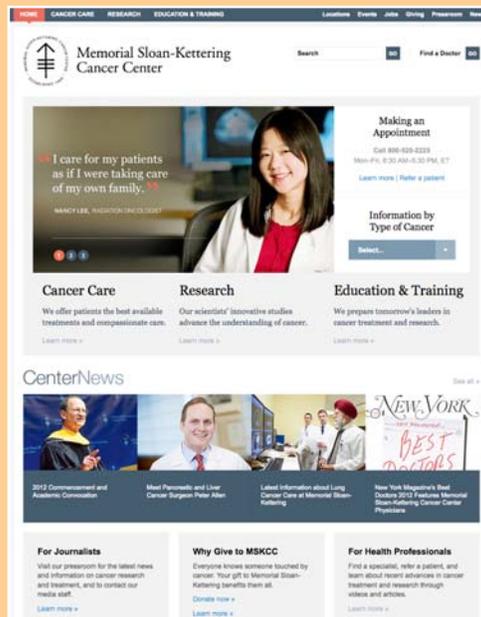
Tumor-like growths called adenomatous polyps are the most common abnormality found during colonoscopy screening and have the potential to become cancerous. Previous research has shown that the removal of such polyps can prevent colorectal cancer but it was not known whether the cancers prevented would have contributed to loss of life. This study examined whether removal of adenomatous polyps reduced colorectal cancer mortality — a find-

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Redesigned Website Offers Easier Access to Information

Memorial Sloan-Kettering’s website (www.mskcc.org) has been redesigned to improve the experience of the more than four million unique visitors to our site each year. An almost yearlong review process incorporated input from patients, caregivers, and health professionals toward the goal of enhancing the layout, design, and content of our 12,000-page site.

A 2010 Pew Research Center study found that more than 80 percent of Internet users seek health information online, with the vast majority searching for information on symptoms and treatments. People diagnosed with cancer and their loved ones can find accessible, targeted information on our website about how our experts diagnose and treat every type of cancer, from the most common to rare cancers. Researchers, healthcare professionals, and students alike can learn about our extensive research programs and opportunities for training at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. The refreshed site conveys the compassionate care, teamwork, and innovative clinical approach that are central to our mission. ☀



Redesigned in 2011, Memorial Sloan-Kettering’s website, www.mskcc.org, received a 2012 Webby Award nomination for Best Health Website.

Highlights of new elements and redesigned features on www.mskcc.org include:

- Our frequently updated **News** section informs users about the latest advances in cancer care and research.
- Direct access to **downloadable, current information** about cancer care, research, and education.
- **Videos** that explain clinical advances in cancer treatment and Memorial Sloan-Kettering’s team approach to care.
- Links to Memorial Sloan-Kettering’s **social media** channels on every page, so visitors can interact with the institution and share content through Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Colonoscopy Screening Helps to Save Lives

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ing indicating that the polyps removed had the potential to progress and cause cancer death.

Researchers evaluated the long-term results of 2,602 patients enrolled in the National Polyp Study, which is the largest study of its kind and was led by Dr. Sidney J. Winawer, a gastroenterologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering who is credited with introducing colonoscopy into guidelines for colorectal cancer screening. The current study found that the detection and removal of these polyps resulted in a 53 percent reduction in colorectal cancer mortality in the study population, as compared to the rate of death from colorectal cancer found in the general population. In addition, patients who had adenomatous polyps removed maintained the same low death rate from colorectal cancer for up to 10 years after the procedure as did a control group of people in whom no such polyps were detected.

Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States. The National Cancer Institute estimates that in 2011 more than 100,000 new cases of colon cancer and almost 40,000 cases of rectal

cancer were diagnosed, and that more than 49,000 people died from colon and rectal cancer combined. A colonoscopy allows the doctor to inspect the rectum and the entire colon, using a flexible tube with a camera. Polyps or other growths that are found during these examinations are usually removed at the time and sent to a laboratory for examination.

Routine screening for colorectal cancer is recommended starting at age 50 for individuals who have an average risk of developing colorectal cancer and no symptoms. Our doctors recommend colonoscopy every 10 years as the preferred way to screen for colorectal cancer. Those who are at increased risk for colorectal cancer due to a personal or family history of colorectal cancer or adenomatous polyps or a personal history of long-standing inflammatory bowel disease may be recommended to undergo screening colonoscopy starting at an earlier age and/or at more frequent intervals. To learn more about colorectal cancer screening, risk groups, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering's recommended screening guidelines, visit www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/screening-guidelines/screening-guidelines-colorectal. ☼

Go Green! Memorial Sloan-Kettering grows greener every day. Help us to reduce paper waste by signing up to receive *Community Matters* via e-mail. Please send your name, home address, and e-mail to communityaffairs@mskcc.org with a request for the online version of this quarterly newsletter.

New Care Facility Planned for Regional Network



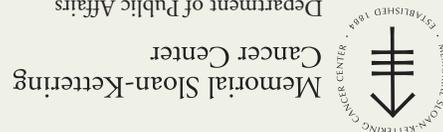
Last fall the New York State Department of Health approved Memorial Sloan-Kettering's plan to build a 114,000-square-foot outpatient facility in Harrison, New York. The new site will allow Memorial Sloan-Kettering to offer cancer care services closer to home for patients who reside in the Hudson Valley area.

Similar to Memorial Sloan-Kettering's network facilities in Long Island and New Jersey, the Harrison facility will offer services to detect, diagnose, treat, and care for cancer patients and their families in a friendly, supportive environment in their own community. Comprehensive outpatient cancer care provided by Memorial Sloan-Kettering clinicians will include medical and radiation oncology, chemotherapy, diagnostic radiology, surgical consultations, genetic counseling, clinical research trials, survivorship programs, social work, nutrition and other support services. Space will also be available for community cancer support groups, and the site will host educational events for health care professionals, patients, and their caregivers. Construction of the facility will begin in the summer of 2012 and is expected to be completed in 2015. ☼

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