

What is colorectal cancer?

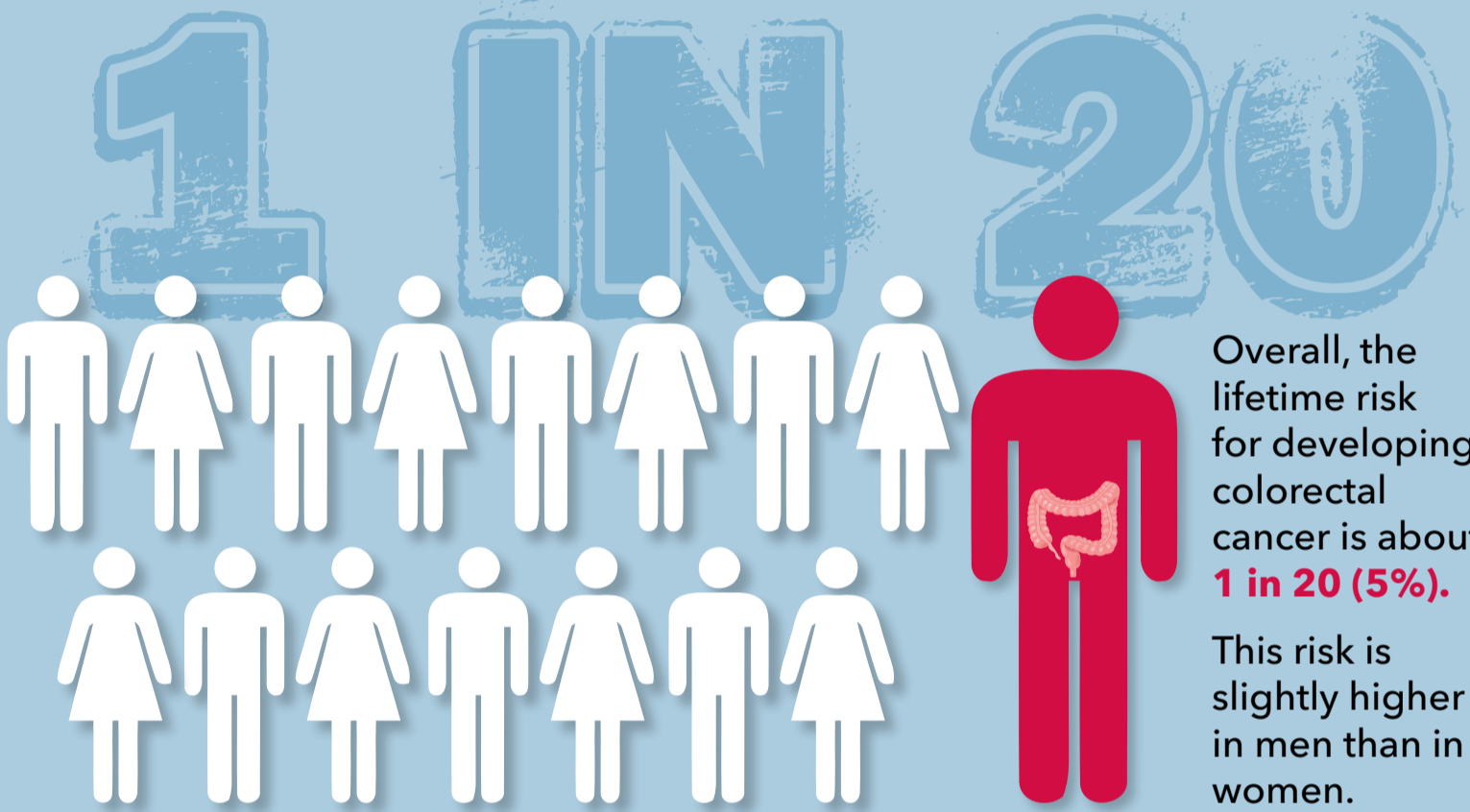
Colorectal cancer refers to cancer that develops in the colon or the rectum.

A non-cancerous polyp grows on the inner lining of the colon or rectum before developing into cancer. Not all polyps develop into a cancer.

The stage of a colorectal cancer depends to a great degree on how deeply it grows into the layers of the colon or rectum. This helps determine treatment options and prognosis.



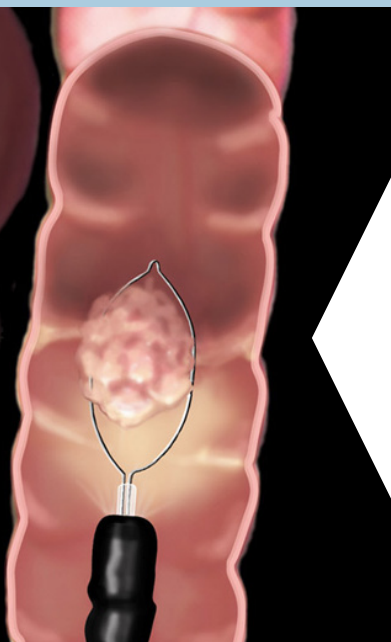
Excluding skin cancers, colorectal cancer is the **third most common cancer** diagnosed in both men and women in the United States.



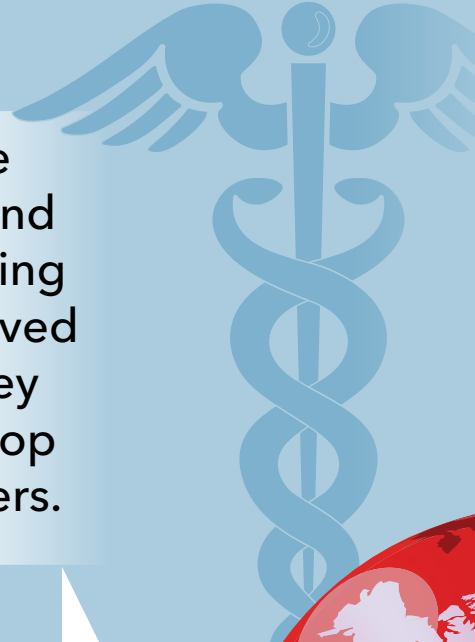
Overall, the lifetime risk for developing colorectal cancer is about **1 in 20 (5%)**.

This risk is slightly higher in men than in women.

However, the death rate from colorectal cancer has been dropping for more than twenty years, because...



Polyps are being found by screening and removed before they can develop into cancers.



Symptoms for colorectal cancer usually appear only with more advanced disease state.

Screening also allows more colorectal cancers to be found earlier, when the disease is easier to cure.

In addition, treatment for colorectal cancer has improved over the last several years.

As a result, there are now more than **1 million survivors** of colorectal cancer in the United States.



1 MILLION SURVIVORS

Regular colorectal cancer screening or testing is one of the most powerful weapons for preventing colorectal cancer.