Colorectal Resection

What is your colon?

Your colon (large intestine) is the last part of your digestive tract. This part of your bowel soaks up water and stores food waste. Your colon is a tube-like muscle with a very smooth lining. The lining is made up of millions of cells. The average adult colon is about 4 to 6 feet long. The rectum is the last 6 inches of your colon.

Are there different parts of my colon?

This picture shows you the parts of your colon.

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This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

What is a colorectal resection?

When there is a tumor in your colon or rectum, a surgeon will remove the tumor and the part of your colon or rectum near the tumor. This is called resection. Some normal tissue and lymph nodes may also be removed. The healthy sections of your colon are then sewn together. This is called anastomosis.

How is my resection done?

There are two ways that your surgeon can perform the resection surgery.

- **Open surgery**: Your abdomen is cut open to do the surgery.
- **Laparoscopic surgery**: Your surgery is done through many small incisions in your abdomen. The tools used for your resection are put through these incisions.

Are there different types of colorectal resections?

There are 5 different types of colorectal resections. The type of resection that is done depends on where your tumor is located.

- **Right Hemicolecotomy**
  
  Part or all of your ascending colon and cecum are removed. Your colon is then reconnected to your small intestine.

- **Left Hemicoloectomy**
  
  Part or all of your descending colon is removed. Your transverse colon is then reconnected to your rectum.
• **Sigmoid Colectomy**
  Part or all of your sigmoid colon is removed. Your descending colon is then reconnected to your rectum.

• **Low Anterior Resection**
  Your sigmoid colon and a portion of your rectum are removed. Your descending colon is reconnected to your remaining rectum.

• **Abdominal Perineal Resection**
  Part of or all of your sigmoid colon and your entire rectum and anus are removed. A colostomy will be made. A colostomy creates an opening on the outside of your body (stoma) that allows stool to drain into a collection device (pouch).