Colorectal Resection

What is the colon?
The colon (large intestine) is the last part of your digestive tract. This part of the bowel works to soak up water and store food waste. The colon is a tube like muscle. This tube has a very smooth lining. The lining is made up of millions of cells. The colon in an adult is about 4 to 6 feet long. The rectum is the last 6 inches of the colon.

Are there different parts of the colon?
This picture shows you the parts of the colon.
What is a colorectal resection?
When there is a tumor in the colon or rectum, the surgeon will remove the tumor and the part of the colon or rectum near the tumor. This is called resection. Some normal tissue and lymph nodes may also be removed. The healthy sections of the bowel are then sewn together. This is called anastomosis.

How is the resection done?
There are two ways that your surgeon can perform the surgery.

- Open surgery: The stomach is cut open to do the operation.
- Laparoscopic surgery: Surgery done through several small incisions in the stomach.

Are there different types of colorectal resections?
There are five different types of colorectal resections. The type of resection that is done depends on where the tumor is located.

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

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

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

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