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## March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

**March 1, 2019**

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Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the United States. There are an estimated 140,000 new cases diagnosed every year and about 50,000 people lose their lives to colorectal cancer each year. According to the American Cancer Society, the risk of developing colorectal cancer is slightly lower in women (4.15%) than in men (4.49%).<sup>1</sup>

There are several risk factors that have been linked to the development of colorectal cancer. These risk factors include: obesity, physical inactivity, eating large amounts of red meat, smoking, and heavy alcohol consumption. Factors like history of colorectal polyps and inflammatory bowel disease or colorectal cancer cases in the patient's family significantly increase the possibility of developing colorectal cancer.

PathGroup offers laboratory tests that allow healthcare providers and patients to better understand their risk of developing colorectal cancer. Contact a PathGroup representative to learn more about our testing options to identify a patient's risk.

<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society, Colorectal Cancer, <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/colon-rectal-cancer.html>