

Colorectal cancer surgical care pathway

1. Pre-surgery

Getting to Sunnybrook

At Sunnybrook, we see colorectal cancer patients who are referred here for a colonoscopy, or patients who have already received a colorectal cancer diagnosis. Here's how it works:

Diagnosis at Sunnybrook

If you and your family physician suspect you need a colonoscopy, they will refer you to Sunnybrook for a scope. Sunnybrook offers an expedited colonoscopy program; you will receive a guaranteed scope within two weeks.

Diagnosis from outside of Sunnybrook

If colorectal cancer has been discovered outside of Sunnybrook, your doctor will refer you to Sunnybrook for treatment after receiving your diagnosis.

Once you're a Sunnybrook patient

Nurse navigator

Once you are a patient, you will be assigned a nurse navigator. Your nurse navigator is your designated nurse, who is here to support you during your journey. You may call or email your designated nurse at any time.

Treatment plan

Before your treatment is decided, a group of world-leading cancer experts meet to discuss your best possible treatment plan.

2. Surgery

Many traditional open surgeries for cancer management can now be performed using a laparoscope for a minimally invasive approach. For patients, this means that they have almost no incision and much faster recovery time.

Types of minimally invasive surgical options include:

- Laparoscopic right hemicolectomy
- Laparoscopic left hemicolectomy
- Laparoscopic sigmoid colectomy
- Laparoscopic low anterior resection
- Laparoscopic abdominal perineal resection
- Laparoscopic multivisceral resection
- TAMIS
- TaTME

Our experts are also world leaders in traditional colorectal surgeries.

3. Post-surgery

Follow up with your surgeon

Your surgeon will have reviewed your lab results in advance of your initial follow up.

Transition plan

You'll be provided with evidence-based surveillance tools to help inform your long-term plan.

Contact us

Contact the patient and family education team at patienteducation@sunnybrook.ca or 416-480-4534.

For questions about your care, please contact your care team directly.