

# Colorectal polyps

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Glossary Item

**METEOR identifier:** 564110

**Registration status:**

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

**Definition:** Small growths of colon tissue that protrude into the colonic or rectal lumen. They are usually asymptomatic, but sometimes cause visible rectal bleeding, and, rarely, other symptoms. Polyps may occur individually but it is common for a person to have multiple polyps. They occur more commonly in later life, and hereditary and dietary (lifestyle) factors may play a part.

Polyps may become cancerous and are generally defined as 2 main types:

- hyperplastic: a type of polyp that has a low risk, if any, of developing into a cancer. However, people with multiple hyperplastic polyps are associated with an increased risk of bowel cancer.
- adenoma (adenomatous): a polyp that has a higher chance of becoming cancerous, as it contains molecular characteristics that are common with adenocarcinoma.

Polyp number, size and microscopic features may also predict the likelihood of a polyp becoming cancerous, with larger and flatter (non-stalked) polyps having the higher risk. During a colonoscopy polyps are removed, thus lowering the risk of bowel cancer developing in the person.

## Source and reference attributes

**Reference documents:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013. National Bowel Cancer Screening Program monitoring report: July 2011–June 2012. Cancer series no. 75. Cat. no. CAN 71. Canberra: AIHW.

## Relational attributes

**Metadata items which use this glossary item:** [Colorectal polyp type](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Colorectal polyp type code N\[N\]](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Colorectal polyps greater than or equal to 10 mm indicator](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Grade of colorectal polyps found](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2014-18](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2018

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2018–19](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2019–20](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2020–21](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2021–22](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2022–23](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

[Number of colorectal polyps found](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2018

[Number of colorectal polyps found](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 06/09/2018

[Patient—anatomical site of colorectal polyps](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Patient—anatomical site of colorectal polyps, code XX\[XX\]](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Patient—colorectal polyp type](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Patient—colorectal polyp type, code N\[N\]](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Patient—colorectal polyps found in colon indicator](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Patient—colorectal polyps found in colon indicator, yes/no code N](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Patient—colorectal polyps greater than or equal to 10 mm indicator](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Patient—colorectal polyps greater than or equal to 10 mm indicator, Yes/no code N](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Patient—grade of colorectal polyps found](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 29/08/2014

[Patient—grade of colorectal polyps found, code N](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2018

[Patient—grade of colorectal polyps found, code N](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 06/09/2018

[Patient—number of colorectal polyps found](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2018

[Patient—number of colorectal polyps found](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 06/09/2018

[Patient—number of colorectal polyps found, N\[NN\]](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 06/09/2018

[Patient—number of colorectal polyps found, number N\[NN\]](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2018