

## If I tested positive for Septin9, does that mean I have colorectal cancer?

Not necessarily. Although a positive result means that you have a high risk of having colorectal cancer, as with many other diagnostic tests, a false positive result can occur. That is why your doctor will recommend that you receive a follow-up colonoscopy for definitive diagnosis. Please follow that recommendation.

## Does the test replace a colonoscopy?

No. It is our current belief that the blood test should provide a convenient and high-quality alternative to other non-invasive screening tests (e.g. FOBT) for the first step in colorectal cancer early detection.

## Is the cost of the test covered by my health insurance?

Currently, the Septin9 test is offered only as a self-pay service. A large prospective clinical study – PRESEPT – to evaluate the performance characteristics and the health economic benefit of colorectal cancer screening with the <sup>14</sup>C-SEPT9 biomarker in a representative screening population is currently under way. The results are expected to support future coverage of Septin9 testing by public insurers.

*Practise stamp*

You'll find further information about Epigenomics' Septin9 test under the brand name Epi *pro*Colon on our website

[www.epiprocolon.de](http://www.epiprocolon.de)

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## The Septin9 test

A simple blood-based test for early detection of colorectal cancer



## Why is colorectal cancer screening important?

Approximately 500,000 individuals worldwide die from colorectal cancer every year, making colorectal cancer second only to lung cancer in the number of cancer-related deaths. Colorectal cancer is a disease with a high cure rate when detected at an early stage. For that reason, regular colorectal cancer screening should be an inherent part of health care, beginning at the age of 50.

## Which methods are offered for the early detection of colorectal cancer?

Screening guidelines exist in many countries. It is usually recommended that patients undergo an annual test for occult blood in stool (FOBT) or an ambulant colonoscopy that should be repeated once after ten years. Both, colonoscopy and FOBT are proven to be effective in the fight against colorectal cancer. Unfortunately, only a minority of the target population participates in regular colorectal cancer screening because it is perceived to be unpleasant and laborious. The Septin9 test provides an acceptable alternative.

## What is the Septin9 test?

The Septin9 test is a blood-based test that can be performed as a first step in early detection of colorectal cancer. The assay is able to detect a marker in blood plasma that is specific to colorectal cancer. For this purpose the doctor takes a blood draw which is sent to a diagnostic laboratory for analysis. After approximately one week, the doctor receives the result. If the marker is detected in the sample, there is an increased likelihood of having colorectal cancer. In this case the patient should undergo a colonoscopy to confirm the diagnosis or as a first step in therapeutic treatment.



## How does the test work?

Even at the earliest stages, colorectal tumors shed genetic material or DNA into blood. The Septin9 test is able to detect that tumor DNA in a blood draw. A positive test result indicates that there is an increased likelihood for the presence of colorectal cancer. This has been established in multiple independent clinical studies.

## What are the advantages of the Septin9 test over other methods for colorectal cancer early detection?

The Septin9 test is very comfortable for you as a patient and also your family doctor. All it takes for you as a patient is giving a blood sample. The sample then will be analysed at a local or regional diagnostic laboratory. The result is provided to your doctor who can discuss it with you within a few days after the blood sample was taken.

## How can I get tested for Septin9?

The Septin9 test is prescribed by a doctor. It can be prescribed as a stand-alone test or as a part of your regular check-up. Your doctor will order a blood draw. Please ask your family doctor, gastroenterologist, urologist or gynecologist for the Septin9 test.

## Do I have to prepare before taking the test?

Unlike the most common stool-based methods for colorectal cancer early detection there are no nutritional recommendations or alterations in medication required for the test. The blood draw can be taken at any time.

## How long do I have to wait for the results?

Your results will be sent to your doctor, usually within five business days from the date of receipt of the blood sample. Your doctor will discuss the result with you and depending on the result, together you will decide the next step.

## If I tested negative can I be confident that I do not have colorectal cancer?

No diagnostic method is perfect and of course, there is a risk of false negative results. This also applies to the Septin9 test. Colorectal cancer arises spontaneously and develops over a period of 10 to 15 years. So it is advisable to participate regularly in a screening program if the test is negative, independent of the method used.

