

Guardant Shield blood test



Is this the test for you?

Pros:

1. **Simple blood test** to detect colon cancer with high accuracy in *advanced* disease (Stage 2 and 3).
2. **Good at excluding advanced colon cancer.** If results are normal, 99% chance that you do not have advanced cancer.

Cons:

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1. **Shield™ misses 35% of early curable colon cancer** (Stage 1)
 2. **NOT designed to prevent colon cancer.** Guardant Shield™ blood test looks for colon cancer DNA in your blood AFTER you already have colon cancer. Was most accurate when colon cancer was in the advanced stage with a poorer prognosis.
 3. Shield™ is not a test to find colon polyps before they turn to cancer. **It misses 87% of precancerous polyps that could have been removed in time.**
 4. This is unfortunate as colon cancer is one of the very few cancers that are preventable. Most cancers are detectable - but not preventable. We have had a very accurate test to prevent colon cancer for 50 years - screening colonoscopy. Find and remove a polyp... prevent a potential cancer. By the time the Shield™ test is abnormal, you may already have a cancer that is too advanced for cure even with surgery and chemo.
 5. **Not yet FDA approved.**
 6. **Cost of \$895 not yet covered by health insurance.**
 7. Only for average-risk individuals. It is not recommended for those who have already had colon polyps or have a family history of colon cancer or polyps.
 8. If your Shield™ test is abnormal, you will still need to have a colonoscopy.