

Does a negative test result mean I definitely do not have bowel cancer?

No diagnostic method is perfect and therefore in rare cases, there may be false negative results. This applies to the Septin9 assay as well. The development of bowel cancer takes place over a period of 10 – 15 years. The most effective methods of combatting bowel cancer are, independent from the applied method, reg

Does this test replace a colonoscopy?

No. The Septin9 assay is merely a convenient alternative to other non-invasive early-detection methods for colorectal cancer. The colonoscopy still constitutes the gold standard when it comes to the early diagnosis of bowel cancer.

Does my health insurance cover the costs?

At this time, the Septin9 assay is covered only by private health insurance companies and self-paying patients. The Septin 9 producer is currently working jointly with experts from gastroenterology, oncology and health economic analysts in order to achieve a future long-term coverage of the costs by statutory health insurance companies.

Is the Septin9 assay a genetic test?

No. The Septin9 assay is not a genetic test that would help identifying a genetic disease or defect. Instead, it is a method to determine acquired genetic mutations in tumour tissue. In blood, dying tumour cells leave behind a type of fingerprint that makes even smallest amounts of them identifiable.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Handed out by:

Practice stamp

Please note that information regarding reimbursement is only valid for patients who are either members of German statutory or private health insurance.

For patients insured by the public health system:

Some medical services are as a matter of principle not or not in every case (e.g. upon the patient's individual request) covered by health insurance providers. In these cases, patients have to bear the costs themselves.

Current prices are to be found on the order form

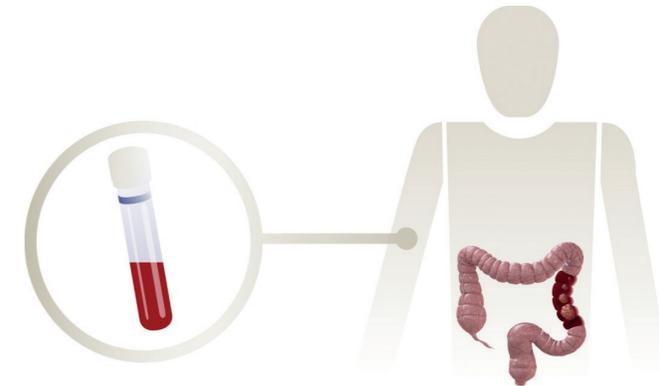
For patients insured privately:

Private insurance companies cover the costs in accordance with the German Scale of Medical Fees (GOÄ), unless such benefits had been explicitly excluded from a policy. Your physician will be happy to answer any questions on the matter.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Septin9 assay

A blood-based Test for the early Detection of Bowel Cancer



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IMD Institut für Medizinische Diagnostik Berlin-Potsdam GbR



Labor Berlin

IMD Berlin MVZ

Nicolaistraße 22
12247 Berlin (Steglitz)
Tel +49 30 77001-322
Fax +49 30 77001-332
Info@IMD-Berlin.de
IMD-Berlin.de



Why is the early detection of bowel cancer important?

In Germany, approximately 26 000 people die from bowel cancer every year. Thus, bowel cancer is the second most common cancer-related cause of death after lung cancer. Healing prospects are very good, as long as it is detected at an early stage.

Therefore, regular preventive bowel cancer check-ups are key and should become a standard part of preventive health care, starting from the age of 50.

What types of early-detection methods are available?

In Germany, there is a legal provision for early detection cancer screenings, which are financed by statutory and private health insurance companies.

For example, people insured with statutory health insurances are entitled to annual tests for non-visible blood in stool (so-called occult blood test) from the age of 50 onwards. There is a recommendation to undergo colonoscopy for patients from 55 years and older.

This procedure includes a complete check-up of the large intestine that should be repeated every 10 years. Patients deciding not to undergo a colonoscopy are still entitled to occult blood testing every 1-2 years.

Unfortunately, only a small number of people uses these opportunities for early cancer detection, because the procedures are often perceived as unpleasant and cumbersome. The Septin9 assay (Epi pro-colon 2.0) provides a practicable alternative, which renders preventive medical check-ups more convenient.

For patients suffering from chronic bowel inflammations or suspected genetic predisposition for bowel cancer, the Septin9 assay is unfortunately not suitable.

What is the Septin9 assay?

The Septin9 assay is a blood-based early-detection method for bowel cancer.

It is able to prove the existence of so-called blood markers in blood plasma, which are highly specific for bowel cancer and can thus help diagnosing very early stages of the tumour. For the test, a blood sample is taken and within 1 – 2 weeks, your physician will receive the test result.

If the mentioned biomarker was detected in the blood sample, there is an increased probability of bowel cancer.

It is recommended that patients, who receive positive test results either undergo a colonoscopy for further clarification or have the Septin9 assay repeated after a few months.

How does the Septin9 assay work?

Already at early stages, genetic material (DNA) of tumour cells finds its way into the blood. The Septin9 assay is able to detect DNA mutations that are specific for bowel cancer - the so-called methylated form of the septin 9 gene.

A positive test result points out an increased probability of current bowel cancer. If that is the case, your physician will recommend a colonoscopy to support the diagnosis.

What are the Septin9 assay's advantages in comparison to other methods of an early bowel cancer recognition?

Sampling for this test is quick and easily done. Therefore, the test is very convenient for both you as a patient and your physician. All you have to do is to let your physician take a blood sample. The test results are then sent to your physician, who will discuss them with you.

How can I be checked for Septin9?

Usually, a physician prescribes the Septin9 assay standing either alone or in the course of a routine examination. Please do address the Septin9 assay when consulting your physician, gastroenterologist, urologist, or gynaecologist.

There are no special dietary requirements and there is no individual preparation of the bowel that would be necessary prior to the Septin9 assay. You may go and have your blood sample taken at your physician's at any time.

How long do I have to wait for the test result?

Normally, the result is sent to your physician within 1 – 2 weeks after the sample arrived at the laboratory. Your physician is going to discuss the results and will explain further steps to you.

In case I am tested positively for Septin9, does that mean I have bowel cancer?

Not necessarily. Even though a positive result points out an increased probability of bowel cancer, as it is the case with many diagnostic methods, false positive results may occur.

Therefore, your physician is going to recommend a colonoscopy or a repetition of the Septin9 assay in a few months in order to confirm the diagnosis.