

COMMON BOWEL SYMPTOMS

Common bowel symptoms are often caused by conditions including rectal bleeding, abdominal pains, changes in bowel habit, anal pain, anal itching, symptoms of anaemia, constipation and diarrhoea. The vast majority of patients with these symptoms do not have a serious condition. However, if symptoms persist despite treatment please consult your GP.

The following symptoms require close attention:

- A persistent change in bowel habit, particularly an increased frequency of going to the toilet and an increased looseness of stools, particularly when this is associated with bleeding
- A change in bowel habits in patients over the age of 60
- Bleeding from the back passage persistently without any symptoms of piles

CONTACT

For more information on our colorectal services or for assistance with consultant referrals, please contact our GP Liaison Team on:

Tel: **020 7234 2009**

Fax: **020 7234 2019**

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 5.30pm



HOW TO FIND US:

London Bridge Hospital is situated on the South Bank of the Thames. We are next to London Bridge mainline and underground stations with easy access to the City. Please note: no right hand turn from Borough High Street into Duke Street Hill.



London Bridge Hospital

27-29 Tooley Street, London SE1 2PR
Tel: 020 7407 3100 Fax: 020 7407 3162
Email: info.lbh@hcahealthcare.co.uk
Website: www.londonbridgehospital.com



London Bridge Hospital

COLORECTAL



Colorectal Cancer is a common form of malignancy in developed countries. Around 106 new cases are diagnosed each day in the UK.¹

There are many symptoms associated with colorectal and bowel disease. As with most cancers, early detection is essential in improving prognosis.

At London Bridge Hospital, our Colorectal Unit is dedicated to providing excellence across an expansive range of colorectal services.

1. www.cancerresearchuk.org

BACKGROUND

Colorectal surgery refers to a variety of procedures used to repair damage to the colon, rectum, anus and pelvic floor caused by diseases of the lower digestive tract, such as cancer, diverticulitis and inflammatory bowel disease.

The London Bridge Hospital Colorectal Unit possesses an experienced team of specialist consultant surgeons offering an expansive range of colorectal surgeries. The Colorectal Team also offers minimally invasive outpatient alternatives to surgery using our endoscopy and colonoscopy facilities.

SERVICES

Services provided by our Colorectal Surgery Team:

- **Colorectal Cancer Surgery** including Primary Colorectal Cancer Surgery and Recurrent Cancer Surgery
- **Endoscopy** including Upper GI Endoscopy, Flexible Sigmoidoscopy and Colonoscopy
- **Inflammatory Bowel Disease** including surgery for Crohn's Disease and Pouch Surgery for Ulcerative Colitis
- **Pelvic Floor Surgery** including Rectal Prolapse Surgery, Rectocoele Repair and Anal Sphincter Repair
- **Proctology** including Anal Fissures, Banding of Haemorrhoids, Stapled Haemorrhoidectomy, Diathermy Haemorrhoidectomy, and Pilonidal Sinus Surgery for primary and recurrent disease

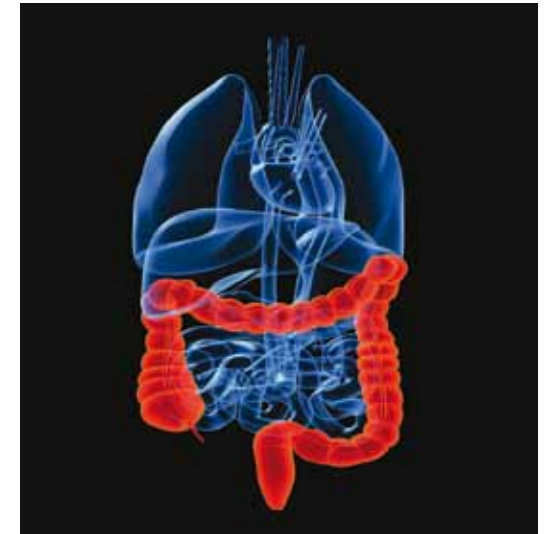


Illustration of a stomach with a highlighted colon.

WHAT TO EXPECT UPON ARRIVAL

On your initial visit to the hospital you will be asked about your bowel habits and toilet frequency to help the Colorectal Team build a picture of your circumstances.

You may be requested to participate in one or more of the following routine initial procedures:

- A blood test
- An abdominal examination, touching and listening to your stomach
- A rectal examination
- A proctoscopy examination using a short telescope
- Sigmoidoscopy procedure to view the last part of the large bowel

Further investigation may involve a colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy.