

Re: Sister-in-law diagnosed with colon cancer

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.diseases.cancer/2004-08/0001.html>

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I agree with another poster that the important thing for your husband to have, first, is a colonoscopy. Virtual colonoscopy? Forget it. Not reliable. See 2004 article: <http://www.healthday.com/view.cfm?id=518355>
If you want to read some very interesting details about the genetics of colorectal cancer, look up Dr. Bert Vogelstein with a search engine. His work describes the genetic pathology, if I am using the right wording, that leads from normal DNA to colorectal cancer DNA. It takes several steps, which is why the colonoscopy is such a wonderful examination. It will catch pre-cancerous polyps during a generous time window, before they might become cancerous. If you're not so lucky, then the colonoscopy will find a tumor. That's how my Mom was discovered to have cancer. She survived, despite her Stage III condition.
"Luck," of course, is in the eye of the beholder.

What stage of colon cancer was your sister-in-law found to have?
I think you were inquiring about the *hereditary* significance of colon cancer, rather than the *genetics.* All cancer is *genetic*, but not necessarily *hereditary*. That is my opinion, but I am not a medical professional.
Best of luck to you all...