

## FAST TRACK DIAGNOSIS OF COLORECTAL CANCER WITHIN THE H.U.B

Brussels, 29th February 2024 – *The teams at the Department of Gastroenterology and Digestive Oncology of the Erasmus Hospital and Jules Bordet Institute propose a fast track diagnosis of colorectal cancer for patients showing warning signs, a positive result for the presence of blood in the stools or at high risk. On 20 and 21 March a giant colon will be installed in the lobby of the Erasmus Hospital and Jules Bordet Institute. Professionals from our institutions will be present to accompany you as you discover this organ and to stress the importance of colorectal cancer screening.*

### Essential screening

Every year more than 8,000 Belgians, men and women, are diagnosed with colorectal cancer. In 90% of cases they are aged over 50. One third of these people die from their cancer because it was detected too late. If treated in time, colorectal cancer is cured in 90% of cases. Faced with this situation, our professionals decided to put into place fast track diagnosis for patients with warning signs or at high risk. Screening with a colonoscopy is essential as it reduces the risk of developing a colorectal cancer and cuts colorectal cancer mortality by 50%. In addition to the diagnosis, this examination also has a treatment value as it makes it possible to detect the cancer at an early stage and to prevent a cancer developing by removing colorectal polyps and early stage cancers.

### Who is the screening for?

In the general population the risk becomes significant after the age of 50. From that age it is easy to effect the screening test by searching for blood in the stools. This test is proposed by your Region via a personalised invitation every two years (Brussels: [www.Bruprev.be](http://www.Bruprev.be); Wallonia : [www.ccref.org](http://www.ccref.org); Flanders: <https://www.cvko.vlaanderen/>)

If you are a person at risk (a hereditary mutation such as familial adenomatous polyposis or Lynch syndrome, personal or family history of polyps and/or colorectal cancer, inflammatory disease of the digestive tract - Crohn's disease or rectocolitis) or if you show warning signs such as the presence of blood in the stools, an unexplained or lasting change in the frequency of bowel movements, abdominal pain or unexplained weight loss, you can make an appointment with our professionals who will then rapidly schedule a colonoscopy.

#### Gastroenterology consultation:

- Jules Bordet Institute +32 (0)2 541 34 80
- Erasmus +32 (0)2 555 35 04

#### Screening consultation at the Jules Bordet Institute (if no symptoms) : +32 (0)2 541 30 55

### A giant colon and a mini exhibition to boost awareness

The month of March is colorectal cancer awareness month. On this occasion the Jules Bordet Institute will be organising an awareness raising event complete with a giant colon. Accompanied by health professionals, you can go inside the colon to discover the organ in 3D and better understand why and how to protect yourself against colorectal cancer, one of the most deadly cancers in Belgium. Note the dates: 20 March at the Erasmus Hospital, between 9 am and 4 pm; 21 March at the Jules Bordet Institute, between 9 am and 4 pm.

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## ABOUT THE JULES BORDET INSTITUTE

An integrated multidisciplinary centre, the only one of its kind in Belgium, the Jules Bordet Institute is an autonomous hospital dedicated exclusively to cancerous diseases.

During the past 80 years the Jules Bordet Institute has been offering its patients diagnostic and treatment strategies at the leading edge of progress to prevent, detect and actively fight cancer. The Institute pursues three missions: care, research and teaching. The Institute's international reputation attracts leading experts in the field of cancer. Its spirit of innovation has enabled it to participate in the development and discovery of new methods of diagnosis and major treatment innovations, with the aim of translating the results into improved patient care as rapidly as possible.

In May 2028, the Jules Border Institute was officially awarded, for the second time, OECI (Organisation of European Cancer Institutes) accreditation as a "Comprehensive Cancer Center", a quality label reserved for multidisciplinary cancer care institutions that combine research and training. The Jules Bordet Institute is the only Comprehensive Cancer Centre with OECI accreditation in Belgium.

PRESS

# RELEASE

H.U.B



On 28 November 2021, the Jules Bordet Institute opened its new building on the ULB university campus in Anderlecht with 80,000 m<sup>2</sup> fully dedicated to leading edge cancer care, research and training, as well as a patient well-being centre. It offers 250 hospitalisation beds and 43 day hospitalisation beds.

The Jules Bordet Institute is also part of the H.U.B., the University Hospital of Brussels, which includes the Erasmus Hospital, the Jules Bordet Institute and the Queen Fabiola Children's Hospital. Thanks to new investments, this internationally renowned university hospital group is able to guarantee high quality care accessible to all combined with excellence in research and training.

[www.bordet.be](http://www.bordet.be)

## ABOUT THE ERASMUS HOSPITAL

The Erasmus Hospital is located on the Erasmus hospital-faculty campus, which includes the Faculty of Medicine (about 3500 students), the Faculty of Motor Sciences (about 1100 students) and the School of Public Health (about 600 students).

Opened in 1977 and with a capacity of 1,048 beds, the hospital receives 25,000 to 30,000 inpatients annually and has 350,000 to 400,000 consultations.

More than 4,000 members of staff, in 80 different professions, contribute on a daily basis to providing care under the sign of ambition, excellence and well-being. The Lothier Polyclinic and 2 external centres (the Traumatology and Rehabilitation Centre - CTR and the Geriatric Revalidation Centre - CRG) complete the care offer.

[www.erasme.ulb.ac.be](http://www.erasme.ulb.ac.be)

## ABOUT THE H.U.B

The Hôpital Universitaire de Bruxelles (H.U.B) is the academic hospital of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), which unites the Jules Bordet institute, the Erasme Hospital and the Queen Fabiola Children's University Hospital (HUDERF) since 2021.

As an international reference center, located in the heart of the Brussels Region, the H.U.B offers high quality general, oncological and pediatric care.

This excellent care, accessible to all, is enriched and sustained by a dual approach of scientific research and teaching for the caregivers of tomorrow.

In 2022, the H.U.B. is composed of more than 6,000 employees who share the following values: Interest of the patient, Respect, Commitment, Solidarity, Diversity and Inclusion, and the principle of Free enquiry.

[www.hubruelles.be](http://www.hubruelles.be)