Thirty-nine-year-old Cory Jorgensen has a lot in common with his father. They both like to fish and enjoy being outdoors. Both men have invested time and energy into building family ties that last.

And both men have also battled colon cancer and won.

“My father developed colon tumors that spread everywhere. I saw what he went through because he wasn’t diagnosed very early in his disease. After added encouragement from my wife, I went to my primary care doctor. He did a blood test and looked at my dad’s paperwork. He referred me right away to Dr. Lauri Harsh at Eastern Iowa Gastroenterology,” says Cory.

The colonoscopy recommended by Dr. Harsh lead to early detection of Cory’s colon cancer. Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S., affecting both men and women of all racial and ethnic groups.

Cory says getting a colonoscopy wasn’t as scary or as bad as people make it out to be.

“The colonoscopy was easy,” says Cory. “Dr. Harsh and her team told me what to expect in laymen’s terms. The nurses and team at the Mississippi Valley Endoscopy Center were really nice and clearly pros at their job. I was home safely and comfortably a couple hours after the procedure.”

Dr. Harsh emphasizes that colon cancer is one of the most detectable, and thus preventable, forms of cancer.

“Early detection is so important,” says Dr. Harsh. “Screening is to start at the age of 50, but if you have a family history of colon cancer or are showing any symptoms, you need to get tested earlier. Early detection saves lives!”

Today Cory preaches that there is no excuse for ignoring your health. He emphasizes that the staff at Dr. Harsh’s office even helped him work through insurance issues.

“If you would like more information about Dr. Lauri Harsh, contact Eastern Iowa Gastroenterology at 563-355-7602, or go to http://eastermiowagastro.com/.

For more information about the Mississippi Valley Surgery Center and the Mississippi Valley Endoscopy Center, go to www.mvsurgerycenter.com.