

Colonoscopy Information Sheet

Colonoscopy: is a visual examination of the lining of your colon (large intestine) and sometimes the end of your small intestine. A long flexible tube (colonoscope) is inserted into the rectum and advanced throughout the colon. Through this instrument the doctor will be able to look for any abnormalities that may be present. If indicated small biopsies (tissue samples) may be taken, and polyps (abnormal growth tissue) may be removed during the procedure. This is usually a painless process. This technique can also be used to control bleeding. Unless specifically requested by the patient, this examination is performed with the patient under sedation.

Risks: The risks of a colonoscopy are uncommon (occurring in approximately less than 1 in 1000) and include, but are not limited to perforation needing surgery, bleeding, infection, anesthesia, and the small chance of missing a cancer due to anatomy or preparation. Be sure to inform your nurse or doctor should you experience any severe pain, fever, or bleeding after your procedure.

Preparation: To allow a clear view, the entire colon must be completely free of waste material. You will be given preparation instructions with this packet which needs to be followed. Avoid taking any iron supplements for 1 week prior to your test. Please discuss any questions regarding medication with your physician prior to your appointment for your procedure.

What will Happen: Upon arrival to your test facility, you will be asked to check in. Next you will be escorted to the pre-procedure area. The doctor and or/nurse will explain the procedure and answer your questions. Please tell them if you have had other endoscopic procedures and if you have any allergies to medications. You will be asked to sign a consent form giving your permission to have the procedure. An intravenous line will be placed for medication to be given during your examination. Once in the procedure room, monitoring equipment will be placed so that your breathing, heart and blood pressure can be observed. You will be given sedation and once you are asleep the examination will take place. The examination usually takes about 20-30 minutes.

Afterwards: You will be taken to a recovery area and will be monitored until you are ready to leave. This usually takes between 20-60 minutes. For the remainder of the day, you are NOT TO DRIVE, OPERATE HEAVY EQUIPMENT, DANGEROUS EQUIPMENT OR MAKE ANY IMPORTANT DECISIONS.