

Colonoscopy

This is a colon screening procedure which is performed while using anesthesia. The provider will insert a long flexible tube through the patient's rectum. The tip of the tube has a small camera so the provider can visualize the inside of the colon. Biopsies and polyp removals may also be done during your colonoscopy.

Recommendations

- Patients 50 years of age and older
- Black patients 45 years of age
- Family history of cancer 40 years of age or 10 years prior to family member's diagnosis
- Signs and symptoms such as abdominal pain, bloating, bleeding, or unexplained changes in bowel habits

Preparation

- You will need to follow a strict clear liquid diet the day before your procedure
- It is especially important to avoid ingesting anything red and purple (this can resemble blood)
- You may need to withhold certain medications prior to your procedure
- Follow your preparation instructions carefully. Various preps exist and each have specific instructions to follow

Diagnosis

After your colonoscopy, your provider will see you for a follow up appointment to discuss the findings and any pathology results. You will be notified if further screening or procedures are required. Our medical staff will assist you with coordinating your care.

Risk

The following complications are rare but may occur

- Anesthesia or sedation adverse reactions
- Bleeding from a biopsy or polyp site
- Perforations in the colon or rectum (tears in the tissue)

Recovery

You will need a ride home from the procedure. Patients do not experience a large amount of discomfort following their procedure. However, plan to recover from anesthesia for the remainder of the day.