

Information about your Colonoscopy

What is a colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy enables your doctor to examine the lining of the colon (large bowel). Under sedation, a flexible tube is gently passed via the anus into the colon. A tissue biopsy may be taken, or polyps removed. Colonoscopy is the best test to assess for bowel polyps, inflammation or cancer.

Is Colonoscopy safe?

Colonoscopy is a safe and well-tolerated procedure. You may feel temporary discomfort following the procedure. Occasionally there may be nausea or light-headedness following the anaesthetic. More significant complications are uncommon, but may include the following:

Aspiration – if the contents of the stomach enter the airways – The risk is generally less than 1 in 100 procedures

Bleeding – after polyp removal or biopsy, may occur up to 10 days following the procedure. The risk is generally less than 2 in 100 procedures

Infection – rare

Perforation – a hole in the bowel that may require surgery – The risk is generally less than 1 per 1000 procedures.

What Bowel Preparation is required?

For the procedure to be accurate, the colon must be completely clean. This is achieved by following the colonoscopy instructions. The Preparation will wash through the bowel and cause diarrhoea that should become clear and watery. This is available to purchase without a script at GastroNorth main rooms or your local pharmacy.

What do I need to bring?

You may need to bring your doctor's referral (if you have been referred directly by your GP). Bring your health fund and Medicare cards. Wear loose fitting clothing and leave jewellery and valuables at home.

What happens afterwards?

You may be drowsy for several hours following the sedation. A friend or family member must drive you home and stay with you till the next day. Your procedure may be cancelled if this has not been organised. You must not drive until the following day or longer if you drive a commercial vehicle. You should contact your doctor or attend and Emergency Department immediately if you experience any severe abdominal pain, vomiting or passing blood, difficulty breathing, fevers/chills, or any other symptoms you are concerned about.

Colonoscopy Instructions

Date of Procedure: _____ in the Morning / Afternoon

Doctor: _____

PROCEDURE LOCATION:

<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Gut Centre	119 Plenty Road, Bundoora	Ph: 9466 8466
<input type="checkbox"/> John Fawcner Private Hospital	275 Moreland Rd, Coburg	Ph: 9385 2500
<input type="checkbox"/> Northpark Private Hospital	Cnr Plenty & Greenhills Road, Bundoora	Ph: 9468 0800
<input type="checkbox"/> Manningham Day Procedure Centre	L3, 200 High Street, Lwr Templestowe	Ph: 8850 0590
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitcham Private Hospital	27 Doncaster East Rd, Mitcham	Ph: 9210 3177
<input type="checkbox"/> Knox Private Hospital	262 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna	Ph: 9210 7018

Key Information

- The procedure time will be approximately 20-30 minutes
- The arrival time will be confirmed with you 1-2 days beforehand by the hospital
- Allow 3 hours from your arrival time before you will be ready to go home
- Ensure you have someone to drive you home afterwards
- Follow the instructions carefully to for your colonoscopy to be successful
- On the day, your doctor will see you before and after the procedure to discuss the results
- You will receive a hard copy of the report. The report and all results will also be sent to your GP

Bowel Preparation

- You will need to obtain "MOVIPREP". This is available at GastroNorth or at your local pharmacy without a prescription. The preparation can be made-up and chilled in the fridge shortly before it is consumed
- You will need to follow the diet instructions on the next page

Medication

- Stop iron tablets, Imodium and Gastrostop 7 days before the colonoscopy
- Blood thinning medications: Please seek advice well prior to the colonoscopy. Aspirin can be continued.
- Diabetic medications: please seek advice on how to manage diabetes medication and insulin
- If you take the Oral Contraceptive Pill you should use additional contraception for 7 days after the bowel preparation is commenced as the pill's absorption may be temporarily affected.

If you have any questions, please call GastroNorth on 03 9468 9700

Diet Instructions

7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR COLONOSCOPY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop eating food containing seeds/grains including multigrain bread 	

THE DAY BEFORE YOUR COLONOSCOPY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a normal breakfast before 10 am • After 10 am only drink CLEAR FLUIDS until your procedure • CLEAR FLUIDS: CLEAR FLUIDS are: water, soda or mineral water, cordial, sports drinks, lemonade (no cola), apple juice (no pulp), black tea/coffee, green tea, clear soup (e.g. clear chicken broth) 	

Bowel Preparation Instructions

THE DAY BEFORE (.....)	
6 PM (Approx.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only CLEAR FLUIDS are allowed until 2 hours before your admission time • Drink the first litre of MOVIPREP within one hour (mix sachet A & B in one litre of water until dissolved) • Follow with 500ml (2 large glasses) of clear fluids • Continue to drink clear fluids
ON THE DAY (.....)	
3 – 4 hours Before your admission time Start at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only CLEAR FLUIDS are allowed until 2 hours before your admission time • Drink the second litre of MOVIPREP within one hour (mix sachet A + B in 1 litre of water until dissolved) • Follow with 500ml (2 large glasses) of clear fluids
2 hours Before your admission time Start at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAST (No more clear fluids or anything to drink) • You can take regular medication with a sip of water but do not take diabetes medication • If you take blood thinning/diabetes medication, follow the instructions you have been given • Please arrive at the scheduled admission time