

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Because of the use of sedation, it is necessary that you plan to have someone else come with you and drive you home. We also recommend that you don't drive for 24 hours after the procedure.
2. Arrive promptly for your appointment. Late arrival may necessitate cancellation of your appointment.
3. Come to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bring this paper with you.

4. Bring your clinic card, courtesy card, insurance card or Medicaid card with you. If you do not have insurance or other financial coverage, you will need to make financial arrangements ahead of time in the Business Office before the day of your exam.
5. If you have any questions, call our office.

## APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you cannot keep your appointment,  
please call to cancel this one and you may  
arrange another appointment at that time.**

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COLONOSCOPY

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You have been scheduled for colonoscopy for the purpose of examining your colon (large intestine) and (if applicable) removing a polyp or polyps.

## WHAT OCCURS DURING THE EXAMINATION?

The colonoscopic examination is done by inserting a long flexible lighted tube into the rectum and beyond. In many cases, the instrument can be inserted throughout the entire extent of the large intestine, permitting a complete examination. Abdominal cramps are usually experienced by the patient during the course of the examination. However, you will be sedated with medications which will help the cramps. Be sure and tell us if you are allergic to any medications.

## WHAT IS A POLYP?

A polyp is a growth that is attached to the inside of the colon. Most of these growths are benign but their removal is strongly recommended so that the polyp may be examined under the microscope, permitting an exact diagnosis to be made. In addition, benign polyps at times may become malignant with the passage of time. Therefore, we believe they should be removed. At times, a polyp is discovered unexpectedly during the course of a colonoscopic examination which is being done for other reasons. We recommend that all patients give us permission ahead of time to remove polyps if they are discovered.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF A POLYP IS DISCOVERED?

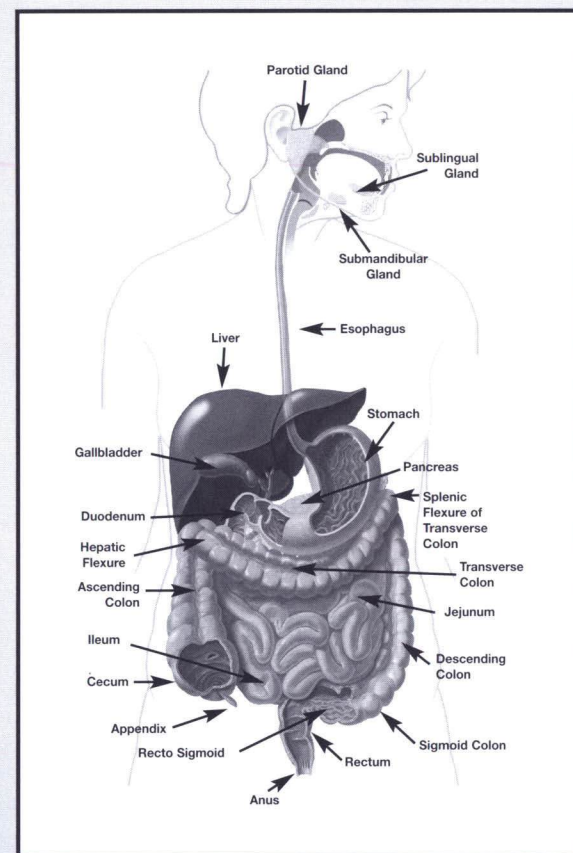
If a polyp is discovered, a thin snare wire is passed through the colonoscope and the polyp is encircled. The snare is tightened and an electric current is passed through the wire which cuts off the polyp. The polyp is then brought out of the colon and sent to the pathologist for further examination.

## ARE THERE ANY POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS?

The possible complications of colonoscopy and polypectomy (polyp removal) include perforation (rupture) of colon, hemorrhage from the colon and side effects due to the medicines (sedatives) which are given. In very rare circumstances, death could result from a complication.

## NOTE:

You should not use aspirin for a minimum of 7 days before the test as well as certain arthritis medications, known as NSAIDs (Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs) as these may predispose you to bleeding. Please review all your medications with the doctor.



# COLONOSCOPY