

COLONOSCOPY

Colonoscopy is a visual examination of the lining of your colon (large intestine). A long flexible tube (colonoscope) is passed through the rectum, and around the colon. Through the telescope, the doctor will be able to look for any abnormalities that may be present. If necessary, small tissue samples (biopsies) can be taken during the examination (painlessly) for laboratory analysis. Polyps (abnormal growths of tissue) can also be removed, using an electric snare wire.

Preparation: To allow a clear view and prevent complications, the colon must be completely free of waste material. **You will be given a laxative solution to drink the day before the examination, and instructions to remain on clear fluids.** Do not eat or drink anything after midnight. **On the morning of your procedure, you must continue to take your prescription medication, using small sips of water. If you are taking any blood thinners like aspirin, Coumadin, Plavix, Warfarin check with your Cardiologist or family doctor if okay to stop for 5-7 days before the examination.**

What will happen: The doctor and /or nurse will explain the procedure and answer your questions. Please tell them if you have had any other endoscopic examinations, or any allergies or bad reactions to medications. You will be asked to sign a consent form, giving your permission to have the procedure performed. You will be asked to put on a hospital gown, and to remove your eyeglasses, contact lenses and dentures.

You will be placed in a comfortable position on your left side, and may be given medication by injection through a vein to make you sleepy and relaxed. The doctor will pass the colonoscope through the anus and into the rectum, and advance it through the colon. You may experience some abdominal cramping and pressure from the air which is introduced into your colon. This is normal, and will pass quickly. You may be asked to change your position during the examination, and will be assisted by a nurse. The examination takes 15-40 minutes.

Afterwards: You will remain in the clinic area for up to 1 hour, until the effects of any medication wear off. **A companion must be able to drive you home as the sedation impairs your reflexes and judgment. For the remainder of the day you should not drive a car, operate machinery, or make important decisions.** We suggest that you rest quietly.

Risks: Colonoscopy can result in complications, such as reaction to medication, perforation of the intestine, and bleeding. These complications are very rare (less than one in 1000 examinations) but may require urgent treatment, and **even an operation.** The risks are slightly higher when the colonoscope is used to apply treatment such as removal of polyps. **Be sure to inform us if you have any severe pain, black tarry stools or persistent bleeding in the hours or days after colonoscopy.**

Questions or problems: Contact my Office at 940-566-5800 or 940-243-7200. You can also page the doctor by calling 940-384-3535. I understand that Dr. Joseph is an investor in Day Surgery Center, North Texas Hospital and Atrium Medical Center. I understand that I have the option to use an alternative health care facility.

If there is a chance you may be pregnant it is your responsibility to notify us immediately!

Signature

Date

Roy M. Joseph, M.D.