

CT Virtual Colonography Patient Information

Your doctor has requested a CT Colonography. Here are some answers to some frequently asked questions.

What is a CT Virtual Colonography?

CT Colonography enables the inside of your rectum and large intestine to be examined. To enable the test to be carried out effectively, the bowel must be empty and as clear as possible; therefore a special bowel preparation is required.

What happens when someone has a CT Virtual Colonography?

The Nurse will place a small tube into the rectum. The tube has a small balloon on the end which is inflated to help you hold the tube in place.

Air is passed into the large bowel through the tube. CT scans are taken with you lying on your back and then another series of scans are taken with you lying on your stomach.

Are there special instructions to be followed before a CT Virtual Colonography?

Yes. You will need to pick up a preparation kit from your local chemist at least 3 days prior to your examination date. You will need to begin the provided instructions very carefully, starting lunch time the day before your appointment. (An example of a preparation sheet is attached.) If you have any questions, please contact our office. Please notify the reception staff of any illnesses such as Diabetes, heart disease or if you have a stoma or colostomy bag.

You should keep taking your medications with a small amount of water.

Is this test uncomfortable or painful?

You may experience some mild abdominal discomfort during the procedure due to the bowel being distended with air. If it becomes too uncomfortable, please inform the Radiographer or Nurse.

How long does a CT Virtual Colonography take?

The test will take between 40 minutes and 1 hour to complete.

Please bring any earlier X-rays with you when you attend for your examination.

This examination uses X-rays therefore you will need to inform the radiographer performing the exam if you are pregnant or there is a possibility that you may be pregnant.

EXAMPLE ONLY:

12 Noon	Eat only the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 cup clear soup with dry crackers • 1 white chicken or vegemite sandwich (no butter, lettuce or additions) • ½ glass clear apple or grape juice • 1 serving plain jelly (no cream or other additives) • 1 glass skimmed milk 	Tick
1:00 pm	Drink one full glass or more of water with or without clear cordial	
3:00 pm	Drink one full glass or more of water with or without clear cordial	
5:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 cup clear soup • 1 glass clear apple or grape juice • 1 serving plain jelly (no cream or other additives) 	
7:00 pm	Drink one full glass or more of water with or without clear cordial	
8:00 pm	Drink the cold solution of Magnesium Citrate previously prepared	
10:00 pm	Take the three (3) tablets with one full glass or more of water	
11:00 pm	Drink one full glass or more of water with or without clear cordial	
7:00 am	Day of examination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink 1½ glasses of water • Unwrap the suppository and insert (pointed end first into the rectum) as high as possible and try to retain the suppository for up to 15 minutes. • A bowel evacuation usually occurs in 15 minutes to an hour 	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Appointment Date:</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Appointment Time:</div>		