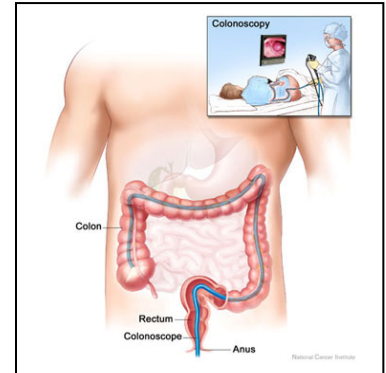


# Colon & Rectal Surgeons

## Colonoscopy

Colonoscopy is a safe, effective method of examining the full lining of the colon and rectum. For this test, the doctor looks at the entire length of the colon and rectum with a colonoscope a long, flexible, tubular instrument. The colonoscope has a video camera on the end that is connected to a display monitor so the doctor can see and closely examine the inside of the colon. Special instruments can be passed through the colonoscope to remove any suspicious looking areas such as polyps, if needed.

This examination allows a qualified physician to carefully examine the lining of your colon for cancer screening, surveillance and evaluation of symptoms. It is also used for clarification of any abnormalities, removal of polyps or a follow-up examination of a previously diagnosed problem.



**Before the test:** The colon and rectum must be empty and clean so your doctor can view the inner lining during the exam. You will need to take a laxative preparation the day before the test to clean out your entire colon.

Upon scheduling your exam, we will give you three preparation options and you be able choose which one you use. With all of the preparations, it will be necessary to be at home when taking the laxatives as they will cause diarrhea within a short period of time in order to clean out your colon.

**During the test:** The test itself usually takes about 30 minutes, although it may take longer if a polyp is found and removed. You will be at the facility about 3 hours total for registration, pre-procedure, the exam and recovery. You will not be able to work or drive for at least 8 hours following the exam. Someone needs to be at the facility with you and then drive you home.

Before the colonoscopy begins, you will be given a sedating medicine through an IV in your hand. The medication will make you feel comfortable and sleepy during the procedure. You may be partially awake, but you may not be aware of what is going on and may not remember the procedure afterward. Most people will be fully awake by the time they get home from the test.

During the procedure, you will be placed on your side with your knees flexed and a drape will cover you. Your blood pressure, heart rate, and breathing rate will be monitored during and after the test.

If a small polyp is found, the doctor may remove it. Some small polyps can eventually become cancerous. For this reason, they are usually removed. If your doctor sees a large polyp or tumor or anything else abnormal, a biopsy may be done. The polyp or biopsy tissue can then be sent to a lab to be checked under a microscope to determine if it is a cancer, benign (non-cancerous) growth, or a result of inflammation. After the exam, the doctor will let you know if any follow-up care is required.

## Ohio Valley Colon & Rectal Surgeons

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