

Endoscopy Department

Colonoscopy

Consent

You are asked to read the information contained in this leaflet. Sign the attached consent form to show that you understand the examination and bring it with you. The doctor performing the test will answer any questions you may have and you may change your mind at any time.

What is a full colonoscopy?

A full colonoscopy is a visual examination of the lining of your bowel. It is performed by passing a small flexible tube through the rectum into the colon. During the course of the examination biopsies may be taken.

Preparing for the examination:

- Your stomach needs to be empty so you will need to fast before the test. You can drink clear fluids up until 2 hours before your appointment time.
- To allow a clear view, your colon (bowel) must be empty. You will receive instructions on the bowel preparation. You must fast from solids (i.e. food) as directed on the bowel preparation information leaflet provided
- You will be provided with a gown. Bring a dressing gown and slippers with you.
- Please have a telephone number of relative or friend who may be contacted to collect you
- If you are under 16 years you must be accompanied by your parent or guardian who is required to give written consent.
- Bring with you details of private medical insurance if you have any.
- The scheduling of your tests is an approximate estimate only and unfortunately there can be unforeseen delays.
- If you have a referral from your Doctor, present this to the secretary on arrival.
- If you are on medication please bring the prescription or a list of them.
- If you have sedation for this procedure you must be collected on discharge. You will not be allowed to drive or travel un-accompanied.

During the procedure

- A nurse will stay with you throughout the examination.
- An examination of your rectum will be carried out.
- The tube will be passed through the rectum into the colon.
- The test will take between 15-60 minutes.
- During the test air will be put into your colon which enables a better view.
- You may feel some stomach cramps and some pressure from the tube. This is normal and will pass quickly.
- There may be other members of the hospital multidisciplinary team present during the procedure.

Following the Examination:

- You will be observed in the recovery area until the effects of the sedation have worn off. The drip will be removed from your arm before you go home.
- Further tests may be requested by the consultant. These tests may be completed on the same day of your examination or a future appointment date will be given.
- When you have sufficiently recovered you will receive a light snack.
- Following sedation you must not drive, operate machinery, sign legal documents or drink alcohol for 24 hours.
- If you have had sedation, you **must** be collected on discharge as you are **NOT** allowed to drive or travel home unaccompanied.

What are the Benefits?

Colonoscopy is the best test to check the bowel. If polyps are identified, these will be taken away by the doctor if it is judged safe. Removing polyps increases slightly the risk of the procedure, but reduces the risk of bowel cancer in the years ahead. Colonoscopy is not a perfect test and things, such as polyps or cancer, very occasionally can be missed.

Ensuring that your bowel is very clean helps to reduce the risk of anything been missed.

Are there any Risks?

Colonoscopy is a safe test but there are some risks. Complications include, but are not limited to the following: perforation (tear) in approximately 1:1000 patients, and 2:1000 patients who have had a polyp removed. Haemorrhage (bleeding) occurs in 0.3-6.1% patients who have had a polyp removed (risk of bleed increases with size of polyp),

Reaction to medications. (This is rare).

Complications may require urgent treatment including surgical intervention (operation) and can carry risks to life and health.

There is also a risk that some abnormalities may be missed during this procedure (1:100)

Medications (tablets)

You may continue to take essential medication but if you are taking blood thinning medication you should receive specific advice from the department. If you have not received any specific advice, please see our advice for blood thinning medication in our FAQ section. You should contact the nurse in the Endoscopy Unit on (01) 2214416 if you have any questions.

If you are on Aspirin, you can continue taking it up until the day before your procedure. Do not take Aspirin on the day of your procedure. There is no need to stop taking blood pressure medication. Iron tablets must be stopped one week before examination. If you have diabetes, there is advice available in the FAQ section of our website and you can contact the endoscopy unit (01-2214416) should you have further questions.

Will I be sedated?

You can choose to have this test done with or without conscious sedation. Conscious sedation is much safer than a general anaesthetic. You will be awake enough to talk with staff during the test and tell them if you are having any discomfort. Some patients will remember things about the test. Every effort will be made to keep you comfortable throughout the test procedure.

Imaging/Biopsies

Photographs/videos of the intestine and samples of the intestine (biopsies) may be taken as part of your care, in order to diagnose or exclude particular diseases. The images or samples taken may be retained by the hospital for further testing and/or education and research in accordance with hospital procedures. In any such event, patient confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Special Requirements

If you use a wheelchair or have a physical or any other disability please contact us to let us know in advance so that we can ensure you receive appropriate supports.

Please see our website for our patient information resources, including frequently asked questions (FAQs) and patient information videos.

<https://www.stvincents.ie/departments/endoscopy/>

If you require any other information or if for any reason you cannot attend for the scheduled appointment please contact:

Phone: 01 221 4599 Monday—Friday between 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm.

Consent Form for Colonoscopy

AFFIX PATIENT LABEL HERE

I/We have read the information on this leaflet for **Colonoscopy** and understand the procedure that will be performed and that I /We will have the opportunity to ask questions before the procedure.

I understand the risks and benefits of, and alternatives to, the procedure. I understand that sedation may be required and that any other procedure found to be necessary will be performed. I understand the transfusion of blood/blood products may, rarely, be necessary and I agree to receiving these.

I am aware that tissue samples may be taken out of necessity and may be retained for future testing and/or education and research.

<p>I/We consent to have these procedures with sedation or without sedation (please circle)</p> <p>I /We consent to the procedure of Colonoscopy.</p> <p>Print Name.....</p> <p>Signature</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Patient/Parent/Guardian)</p> <p>Date:.....</p>

<p>Endoscopist</p>
<p>Print Name.....</p> <p>Signature.....</p> <p>MRCN.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>

<p>Active date: 29.10.21</p> <p>Version number: 4</p> <p>Endoscopy, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4</p> <p>Direct telephone line: (01) 221 4599</p> <p>Web address: www.stvincents.ie</p> <p>Q-Pulse Ref. number: PIL-ENDO-1</p> <p>Printing Ref. number: 0677</p>
