

CT Colonography or “Virtual Colonoscopy”



Radiology Ltd.

CT colonography or “virtual colonoscopy” is a safe, noninvasive procedure for screening the colon for precancerous polyps. Images taken with a computed tomography (CT) scanner allow your radiologist to view the colon without inserting a colonoscope.

How is the exam performed?

A small catheter is inserted into the rectum, allowing the colon to be filled with carbon dioxide gas. The colon needs to be distended by gas for better visualization of the colon lining, where polyps are formed. The CT images are processed with special computer software which allows the colon to be “subtracted” from the rest of the body. This enables the radiologist to view 3-dimensional images of the colon, simulating a conventional colonoscopy examination. Breath hold instructions are given during the exam, with you lying first on your back, then on your stomach, and sometimes also on your side. The exam usually takes 15 to 30 minutes.

How should you prepare?

Pick up a preparation kit at the Radiology Ltd. Camp Lowell Imaging Center, 4640 E. Camp Lowell Dr. 2 days before your exam.

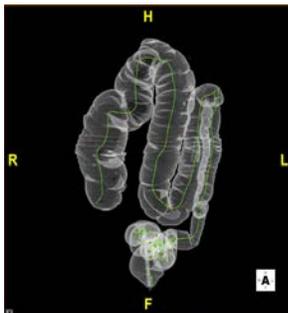
- A radiologic technologist will go over the preparation kit with you, explain the examination, and answer any questions you may have.
- 2 days before:
A low residue diet.
- 1 day before:
A liquid only diet, bowel preparation materials, including laxative agents, and barium and iodine radiology contrast agents are taken by mouth.

Who cannot have a CT Colonography?

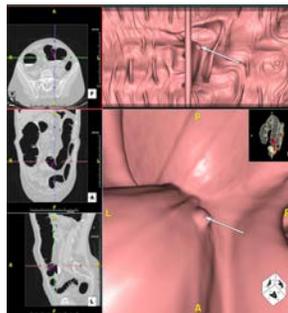
This examination cannot be done for anyone treated for acute diverticulitis until 4-6 weeks after diverticulitis treatment and until diverticulitis symptoms have resolved. The exam cannot be done for anyone with an active flare of inflammatory bowel disease, such as ulcerative colitis or Crohn’s disease. Also, the exam cannot be done for anyone with a colostomy.

How do I get the results?

A detailed report will be sent by your radiologist to your provider who will discuss your examination findings with you.



Volume-Rendered Colon Image



2D and 3D Fly-Through Images



Information to Consider

The risk of colon cancer is greater in larger colon polyps than in smaller colon polyps. It is usually recommended that any detected colon polyp which is 1 cm or larger in size be removed. A follow up standard colonoscopy procedure is performed by a gastroenterologist.

CT Colonography may not be covered or paid for by your insurance carrier. You will be asked to sign an ABN (Advanced Beneficiary Notice) on the day of your examination, which states that if your insurance does not cover the cost of the exam, you will be responsible for payment. The cost of the exam is \$895.00. Even if your insurance carrier pre-authorizes your exam, insurance payment is not guaranteed. We will bill your insurance, and if anything is not covered, we will bill you.

CT Colonography Location

Camp Lowell Imaging Center
4640 E. Camp Lowell Dr.

For more information or to schedule an exam, please contact Centralized Scheduling at (520) 733-7226 or visit our website at www.radltd.com.

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