

Further information and help

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We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/feedback or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or tel. 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 708069 Monday-Friday between 9am-5.30pm.

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CT Colonography (Virtual Colonoscopy)



Advice for patients and their carers

What is CT Colonoscopy?

A CT (Computed Tomography) scanner uses x-rays to produce images of the body.

During CT Colonoscopy, gas will be used to inflate your bowel via a thin flexible tube placed in your rectum. Then CT scans will be performed with you lying on your side and your back. You will also be given an injection of contrast or "X-ray dye" which highlights the bowel wall on the scan images.

CT Colonoscopy also provides information about the other structures inside your abdomen.

The examination usually takes around 30 minutes. However you should expect to be in the department for around an hour in total.

After the scans, doctors will look at your images for polyps and any other abnormality. If anything unusual is seen on the images, or if further information is needed, you may be offered further tests.

Preparing for your scan

You should have received a diet sheet along with your appointment letter.

Please follow the instructions carefully, to help us do the best scan we can.

Frequently asked questions

Q. I have already had a colonoscopy that was uncomfortable; how is this test different?

A. This test will be easier and more comfortable than trying to pass the endoscope around the bowel.

CT Colonoscopy is often done when colonoscopy has been unsuccessful, or if a patient is deemed too frail to tolerate colonoscopy.

Q. Will I need sedation or pain relief for this test?

A. Sedation and pain relief are not required for CT Colonoscopy.

Most people find it uncomfortable but painless, and any discomfort will start to ease as soon as the test is finished.

Because there is no sedation, this test will not affect your ability to drive home after the test.

Frequently asked questions

Q. Why are the scans done in the morning?

A. Patients generally prefer to be scanned at the beginning of the day as:

- there is no need to spend the day without eating
- less time off work is needed - many people go to work straight after their test
- if the scan indicates that an additional test is required, we may be able to organise it for the same day.

Q. What happens if an abnormality is found in my bowel?

A. Usually you will get the result of your scan from your GP. This can take approximately two weeks.

You and your doctor will then decide what to do next, if any further investigation or treatment is needed.