



## **Examination Information for CT Colonography**

This procedure is an examination of the large bowel (colon). It demonstrates the anatomy of the bowel and also gives an indication of abnormalities.

The procedure is performed on the CT scanner after inflation of the bowel with air which is introduced through a soft catheter placed in the rectum.

The procedure can be performed as an alternative to colonoscopy or barium enema examination. It is important that the indications and alternatives are discussed with you or by your doctor beforehand.

### **Preparation**

It is important to have the bowel correctly prepared using laxatives and a suppository, commencing the day before the examination.

### **Procedure**

Two series of images are taken, one with the patient lying face up and one face down. Each scan takes less than 30 seconds. Allow up to 45 minutes for the entire procedure. The patient lies on the x-ray table and a small flexible lubricated tube is placed into the bowel opening. Air is then passed into the bowel through this opening. There may be a feeling of stretching or mild discomfort in the abdomen but patients are rarely bothered by this. An intravenous injection may be given to relax the bowel and in some patients this will help to reduce discomfort and improve the ease of interpretation of the examination.

Patients must hold their breath for about 20 seconds while the films are being taken. Then the air will be drained away and the tube removed at which point the patient may go.

Processing the images takes considerable time as there are many images to view on a high powered computer station. Reporting will take 30-60 minutes, often the radiologist may consult with other specialist doctors.

### **Your Results**

After the scan is completed you will be able to return to your normal activities.

The radiologist will review your scans and send your films and report to your doctor. The radiologist may also phone your doctor to discuss the findings.

### **Appointments**

To make an appointment for your CT Colonography scan please phone our practice at Mercy Hospital in Epsom: 09 630 3324 or 09 623 5857.

If you have any further questions about CT Colonography scanning, ask your doctor or contact us direct.