

Where is a colonoscopy done?

A colonoscopy will be done at an outpatient center.

- There are special drinks that you will need to drink 1 or 2 days before the test.
- A doctor that takes care of illnesses in the digestive system will do the test.
- During the test, you will be given medicine to make you feel sleepy and help you relax.

A nurse will tell you how to get ready for this test.



Ask Your Healthcare Provider:

- ✓ When should I have a colonoscopy?
- ✓ What are the risks of a colonoscopy?
- ✓ Can I bring someone with me to the colonoscopy?

Write your questions down before you go into the office.

Cancer in the colon and rectum is mostly preventable when found early. However, it remains the leading cause of cancer deaths.

Talk to your healthcare provider about getting a colonoscopy.

It could save your life!

COLONOSCOPY



What is a colonoscopy?



Cornell Scott
Hill Health
Center

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Do I need a colonoscopy?

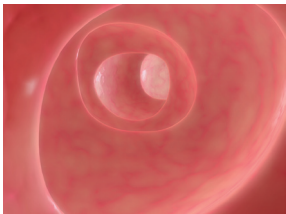
You need a colonoscopy if:

- You are **50 or older**, *or*
- You are younger than 50, but have a **family history** of colon cancer

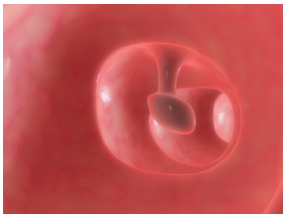
You need a colonoscopy to find the cause of:

- bleeding in your stool
- diarrhea that won't stop
- belly pain that will not go away
- test results that are not normal (stool or barium enema test)

A colonoscopy will also check for polyps (growths on the inside of the intestine).

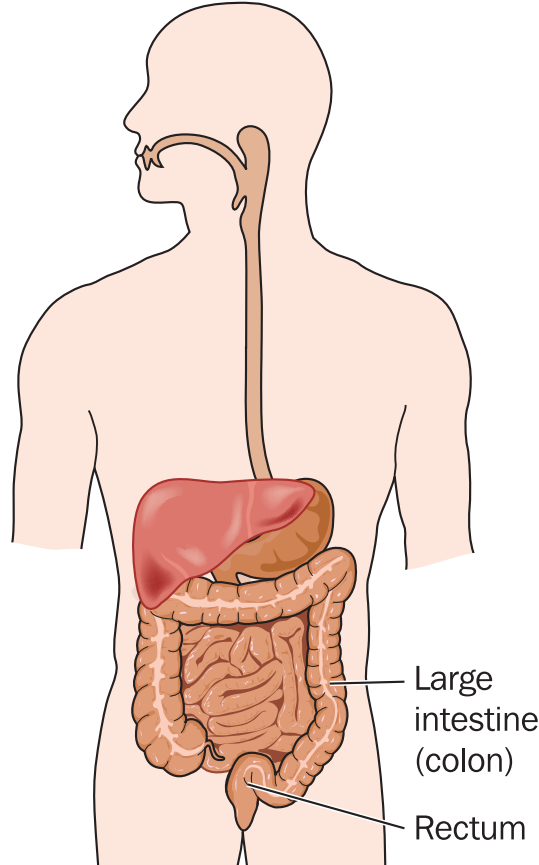


Healthy colon



Colon with a polyp

Where are the rectum and colon?



Large intestine (colon)

Rectum

What happens during a colonoscopy?

- A doctor will look inside your rectum and colon with a thin tube.
- A video camera is attached to the tube. The doctor can take pictures or a video.
- The test will look for:
 - Polyps
 - Tumors
 - Swelling
 - Redness
 - Bleeding
- If the doctor finds something, it might be removed during the colonoscopy.
- Sometimes the doctor will take out a small piece of tissue (biopsy) to have it tested.

Polyps can become cancerous if they are not removed.