

Colonoscopy with Bowel Prep

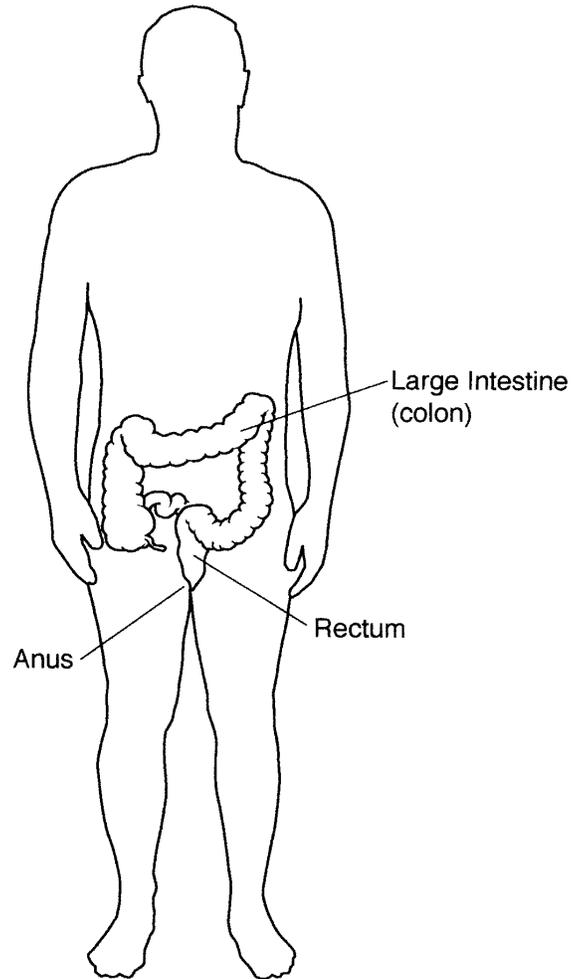
Go-Lytely, Colyte, Trilyte, Nu-Lytely and Others

Colonoscopy is a test used to check the large intestine, also called the colon. A flexible tube called a scope is gently placed into your rectum and guided into your colon. This allows the doctor to see the inside of your colon. During the test, your doctor may also:

- Remove a small tissue sample called a biopsy
- Remove growths called polyps

An adult family member or friend needs to come with you to take you home after the test. It is not safe for you to drive or leave alone.

Arrive on time for your test. Plan a stay of 2 to 3 hours to allow time to get you ready for the test and time to recover after the test. The test itself takes about 30 to 45 minutes.



To Prepare

- You will need to buy these items from a pharmacy to clear your colon of stool for this test.:
 - Fill your prescription for the bowel prep that was ordered by your doctor.
 - Fleet enema. Use only if your doctor told you to use an enema. You do not need a prescription for this. There may be a store brand of this product that costs less. Ask the pharmacist to help you.

- Tell your doctor if you:
 - ▶ Have diabetes
 - ▶ Take anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), naproxyn (Aleve), celecoxib (Celebrex); blood thinners such as warfarin (Coumadin) or clopidogrel (Plavix); or iron tablets.

You may be given special instructions to follow.

- Five days before the test, limit the fiber in your diet. Do not eat nuts, seeds, popcorn and corn until your test is done. Also, stop taking any fiber supplements such as Metamucil, Citrucel, or Fiberall.
- Ask your doctor if you should take your medicines the morning of the test. If so, take with sips of water only.

The Day before Your Test

- **Do not** eat solid food or drink milk products.
- **Do not** drink red or purple liquids. Drink clear liquids only, such as:
 - ▶ Water
 - ▶ Clear broth or bouillon
 - ▶ Clear fruit juices without pulp such as apple, white grape and lemonade
 - ▶ Clear drinks such as lemon-lime soda, Kool-aid or sport drinks.
 - ▶ Decaffeinated coffee or tea without milk or nondairy creamer
 - ▶ Jello or popsicles
- At 12:00 noon, mix the bowel prep powder with water.
 - ▶ Add room temperature water to the fill mark, 4 liters, on the bottle. Add the flavor packet that came with the prescription, but **do not** add any other ingredients or flavors to the mixture.
 - ▶ Twist the cap on the bottle. Shake to mix the powder and water.
 - ▶ You may chill the liquid. This makes it easier to drink. **Do not** put ice in the liquid.

- At 4:00 in the afternoon, start drinking the liquid. It is best to have an empty stomach before you start drinking the liquid. Drink one cup, which equals 8 ounces or 240 milliliters, every 15 minutes. Continue drinking until the bottle is empty. This medicine does not taste good to many people. You may chew gum or suck on mints or hard candy between the glasses of liquid to help you tolerate the taste. You will need to drink all of the liquid to be ready for the test.
- You may need to get to the toilet right away. You will have a loose watery bowel movement in about 1 hour. You will have bowel movements throughout the day. They will become watery. Your bowels are clean when there is only pale yellow fluid without stool.
- When you finish all of the liquid, keep drinking **clear** liquids again until midnight.
- At 10 PM, if ordered by your doctor, use the Fleet enema. To use the enema:
 1. Shake the bottle.
 2. Remove the orange plastic cover on the tip of the bottle.
 3. Lie on your left side with your right knee bent and your arms relaxed.
 4. Gently put the bottle tip into your rectum. Push as if you are having a bowel movement. This will relax the muscles so the tip goes in easier.
 5. Stop pushing and take slow, deep breaths.
 6. Squeeze the bottle until most of the liquid is in your rectum.
 7. Remove the tip from your rectum. Lie on your left side and squeeze your buttocks to hold the liquid in your rectum.
 8. You will have a strong urge to have a bowel movement in about 5 minutes. Hold the liquid in as long as you can.
 9. Use the toilet.
 10. Wash your hands with soap and water.
- After 12 midnight, **do not** eat or drink anything, including water, and **do not** smoke.

On the Day of the Test

- **Do not** take your morning medicines unless told to do so by your doctor.

During the Test

- The staff will ask you about:
 - ▶ Your medicines including prescription and over the counter medicines, herbals, vitamins and other supplements
 - ▶ Allergies to medicines, foods or latex
 - ▶ Other health conditions and past surgeries
- If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, tell the staff.
- You will wear a hospital gown.
- An IV (intravenous) tube is put in a vein in your arm. Medicine to make you relaxed and sleepy is put into the IV.
- You will lie on your left side. You may be asked to pull your knees up toward your chest.
- The scope is slowly put into your rectum and into your colon. You may feel an urge to move your bowels.
- Breathe deeply and slowly through your mouth to help you relax.
- Small amounts of air may be put into the colon through the scope. You may feel some cramping or discomfort during parts of the test.
- After your doctor has checked your colon, the scope is gently removed along with some of the air from the test.

After the Test

- Medicines given during the test will make you sleepy. You will need to have an adult family member or friend take you home. It is not safe for you to leave alone or to drive after your test.
- You stay in the test area until most of the effects of the medicine wears off.
- You may have gas after the test because of the air put in your colon.

- Do not drive, make major decisions or sign any legal forms for 24 hours after the test.
- You can return to your normal diet after the test. If a polyp is removed, your doctor may limit your diet for short time.
- You may have a small amount of blood from the rectum. This is normal.
- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

Call your doctor right away if you have:

- Severe pain
- A fever over 100.5 degrees F or 38 degrees C
- A lot of bleeding from the rectum
- An abdomen which feels larger or hard

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

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