

FACTS & INFORMATION ABOUT COLONOSCOPY.

Colonoscopy is a procedure that allows the physician to evaluate the lining of the colon for abnormalities by inserting a flexible lighted tube from the anus to the beginning of the colon. This procedure requires adequate and thorough cleansing of the colon before the examination can be performed. You should have received along with these written instructions for the same. Please follow those instructions.

You will develop **diarrhea** while taking the medicine for colon cleansing. Don't be alarmed this is expected. Abdominal cramps, and nausea are side effects. However, if you have **vomiting** please call our office to speak with the physician.

Most medications may be continued as usual but some medications interfere with either the cleansing or the examination. We therefore suggest that you notify us of any **allergies** or medication concerns. It is extremely important that you call us if you require antibiotics prior to dental procedures, as you may also need antibiotics prior to colonoscopy.

Colonoscopy is a well tolerated procedure. You will receive medication through a vein to help you relax and increase the tolerance of any discomfort from the procedure. You will be lying on your side or back during the procedure. The examination takes between 15 - 20 minutes. You will also be observed for 45 - 60 minutes (10-15 minutes if done in office) after colonoscopy to allow the effects of medication to wear off. **After the test you will not be able to drive or work that day.**

If some abnormality is detected, in the course of examination, biopsy and /or removal of polyps is carried out during the same session. Remember, biopsies are done for various reasons and do not

mean that cancer is suspected. Polyps are abnormal growth in the colon lining. These vary in size from a tiny dot to several inches. Majority of these polyps are noncancerous. However the appearance of a polyp doesn't tell its nature, it is therefore sent to a Pathologist for tissue analysis. **The results of the biopsy sometimes take 4 - 5 working days. Please call our office if you have not heard from us in 4 - 5 days.**

You may have some cramping or bloating during or after the examination. This generally disappears after passage of gas. You are able to eat your usual diet after the procedure unless some unusual finding suggest otherwise, you will be advised if there are any restrictions.

Although complications after colonoscopy are uncommon, it is important for you to be aware of the possibility. One possible complication is perforation or tear through the bowel wall, which needs urgent surgical correction. Bleeding from biopsy site or polypectomy may occur. It is usually minor and stops on its own or can be controlled through the colonoscope. Rarely, blood transfusions or surgery may be required. Other potential risks include a reaction to the sedatives used and complications from heart or lung disease. Localized irritation of the vein where medications was injected may cause a tender lump lasting at times for several days, this will go away eventually. Applying hot packs or hot moist towels may help relieve discomfort. **Please call our office immediately if you notice any of the following symptoms : severe abdominal pain, fever and chills, or rectal bleeding. These symptoms suggest possible complication(s).**

This procedure is covered by most insurance companies, please check with your insurance

carrier if a precertification is needed, the hospital where the procedure is scheduled is part of the network. Insurance carriers will impose penalty if precertification is not obtained. Our office will assist you as much as we can, however **precertification is your responsibility.** Our office will bill your insurance company, this is a courtesy extended to you without cost. You will receive a statement from our business office regarding charges, payments and balance due.

If you wish to have your colonoscopy billed as a screening, preventative physical, you must notify us before the procedure. "Follow up" does not constitute a screening by insurance companies. We are NOT able to change codes once claims have been submitted. Please let us know if you are utilizing these benefits offered by some insurance companies.

This information is sent to you to prepare and educate you for this procedure. If you have any questions please feel free to call our office. We welcome your questions. We are :

**Gastroenterologists Ltd.,
Dr. Mohammad H Bawani
1105 W. Park Ave. Suite 1,
Libertyville, IL. 60048.
Telephone. (847) 680-5880.
Fax: (847) 680-5881.**

