

## COLONOSCOPY

### What is colonoscopy?

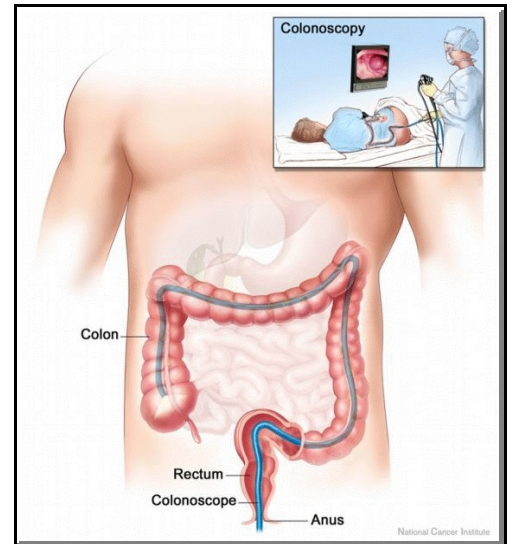
- It is an examination of the lining of the colon and rectum.

### Why is it done?

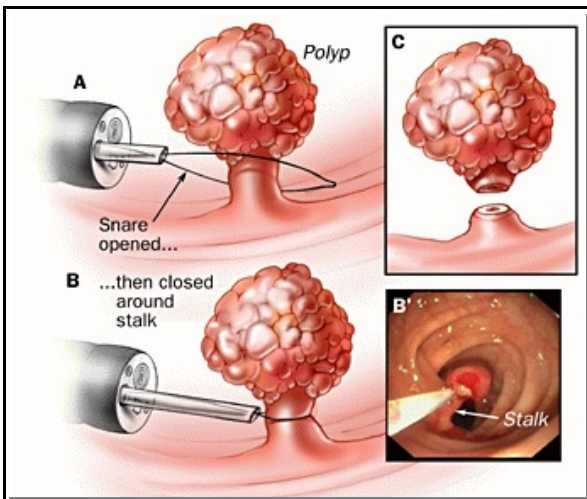
- Most colorectal cancers start in benign polyps.
- Most polyps do not cause any symptoms at all.
- Colonoscopy is the most accurate test for detecting polyps, and the easiest way to remove them (surgery can be avoided).
- By removing the polyps, **most colorectal cancer can be prevented.**

### Who should have it done?

- **All people, aged 50 and older, male or female.**
- It is a myth that the only people who get colorectal cancer are those with a family history. **In fact, 70% of all colorectal cancer victims have no family history of colorectal cancer.**



**The entire colon and rectum is examined.**



### Polyp removed...Cancer prevented.

Artwork is reproduced, with permission, from the Johns Hopkins Gastroenterology and Hepatology Resource Center, www.hopkins-gi.org, copyright 2006, Johns Hopkins University, all rights reserved.

### How is it done?

- A laxative drink is taken the evening before the test to cleanse the colon for proper visualization. Various liquid solutions are available. **We will find the best preparation for you**, depending on your preferences and medical issues.
- On the day of the test, you will be given sedation intravenously, to induce a “twilight sleep”; **most patients do not feel any discomfort during the test.**
- A thin, flexible, lubricated tube (the scope) is gently inserted into the rectum and advanced slowly inside the colon.
- If any polyps are seen, the majority of them can be removed easily during the examination (see the diagram to the left).

### How long does it take?

- You will report 1 hour before the procedure time.
- The procedure itself lasts 30 to 45 minutes. You will be monitored for about 30 minutes after the test.
- It is important to have a friend or a relative take you home.

### Will insurance cover the cost?

- Medicare recipients are covered for colonoscopy every 10 years (or every 5 years if personal/family history).
- For other insurance carriers, contact your benefits representative; many plans are now covering screening colonoscopy, partially or fully.

**To schedule an appointment to discuss and arrange colonoscopy, please call us at 817-924-9002.**