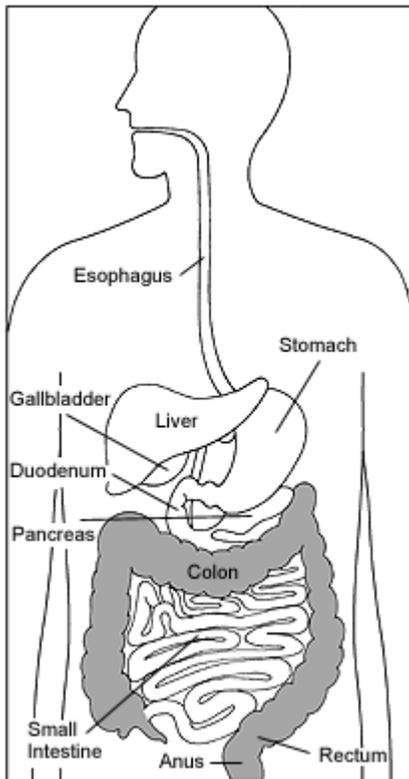


Colonoscopy

What is a Colonoscopy?

Colonoscopy (koh-luh-nos-kuh-pee) is a medical procedure that enables the doctor to look inside the rectum, colon, and terminal ileum (last part of the small intestines). The procedure might be used to discover the reason for rectal bleeding, abdominal pain, weight loss, constipation, diarrhea, or failure to thrive. A limited exam of the just the lower colon, the rectum, is called a sigmoidoscopy (sig-moi-dos-kuh-pee).



When you arrive to the hospital for the procedure, a team of doctors and nurses involved in your child's care will review their medical history, including any medications that your child is currently taking, any allergies to food or medication or any problems with prior sedation or anesthesia. The doctor will review the procedure with you and obtain consent for the procedure. After all of the forms are completed we will then be able to proceed with the procedure. Your child will get an intravenous line (a plastic catheter placed in a vein in your child's arm) so that IV fluids and medications may be given. Depending on your child's age the IV may be placed after they get sleepy air in the procedure room or while they are awake in the holding room. When they are in the procedure room and the IV is in place, medication will be given to make your child sleepy. During the procedure your child will have a thin, flexible, lighted tube with a camera on the end called an endoscope (EN-doh-skope) inserted into their rectum. The endoscope transmits an image of the inside of the colon to a TV screen so the physician can carefully examine the lining of these organs. The scope also blows air into the digestive tract; this expands the folds of tissue and makes it easier for the physician to see.

The physician can see abnormalities, like inflammation, ulcers, polyps or bleeding, through the endoscope that don't show up well on x-rays. The physician can also insert instruments into the scope to remove tiny samples of tissue (biopsy) for further tests, remove polyps, or treat bleeding abnormalities.

A colonoscopy can take up to an hour once your child is asleep. You will be asked to remain in the waiting room during the procedure. Once your child is finished with the procedure they will be taken to the recovery room to wake up from the medication. The doctor will come and speak with you after the procedure is complete. When your child wakes up, you will be able to be with them in the recovery room. Once they are completely awake and tolerating liquids, you will be able to take them home.

Possible complications of endoscopy include bleeding, a tear in the lining of the gastrointestinal tract, and reactions to the medication. However, such complications are rare. Your child may experience mild sore throat or abdominal pain related to the air used during the procedure.

The results of the biopsy will be available in a few days to a week.