

EURACARE

PATIENT INFORMATION FORM

CT COLONOGRAPHY

CT Colonography is an examination of the large bowel. The CT-scanner is a sophisticated x-ray machine attached to a computer. The pictures taken can be looked at individually or formed into three-dimensional images.

Preparation:

Enclosed with this leaflet are instructions on when to take your preparation and diet sheet which should be followed exactly. It is important that you take any essential medicines.

Procedure:

During the scan it may be necessary to give a small injection of colourless dye into your arm to show the blood vessels in the area being scanned. The dye may make you feel a little hot and flushed and you may get a bitter taste in your mouth, this passes off very quickly.

You should not drive or operate machinery for at least one hour after your injection.

The diet that we have asked you follow is to ensure that your bowel is prepared and empty. During the examination the bowel is prepared and empty. During the examination the bowel is filled with air. A small tube will be gently passed into the rectum (back passage) and the air introduced through this. You may be given a small injection in your arm to help relax the bowel. After the examination you may wish to visit the toilet.

The scan shows the organs and structures within the body and it is essential that you keep perfectly still during the short scanning time. You will be asked to lie on a couch and this will pass through the scanner. The scanner resembles a large polo mint lying on its side. The machine will not touch you and you will be not enclosed. You will also be in contact with the radiographer at all times.

This examination may take up to two hours in total.

For women of Childbearing Age

We must be informed of all cases of known or suspected pregnancy at the earliest opportunity. This examination may need to be carried out within the first ten days of your menstrual cycle. When you telephone the call centre please let us know when your next period is due so that we can arrange your appointment accordingly.

Advice:

After the procedure you may eat and drink as normal. We recommend that you drink plenty of fluids for the following 2-3 days.

You may experience some abdominal discomfort until the air disappears from your bowels. Returning to your normal diet and moving around will help to ease any discomfort.

Please seek urgent medical device if you develop any of the following symptoms over the next 4 days:

1. Severe abdominal pain
2. Increasingly painful abdominal discomfort
3. Sweating and nausea
4. Develop a rash, facial swelling or feel unwell
5. The cannula site becomes red, swollen or develops a discharge

Contact your GP during working hours or Accident and Emergency at other times. Please bring this leaflet with you. You may have been given an injection of Buscopan, used to relax the muscles in the bowel wall during the investigation. This can cause blurred vision, dry mouth and an increase in heart rate, but this usually only lasts 45 minutes. Do not drive or operate machinery until your vision has returned to normal. You should avoid alcohol consumption for 24 hours. It may also precipitate an underlying untreated condition called glaucoma. You are advised to seek urgent medical advice if you develop a painful red eye with ongoing blurred vision within 12 hours of this procedure.

