



33 Overlook Road, Suite 306, Summit, NJ 07901
908.273.2886

COLONOSCOPY PROCEDURE

Please take into consideration the expense and effort required by our office and by the facility to schedule a colonoscopy. Please keep your appointment unless an emergency arises.

Please arrive 1 hour before your scheduled appointment. It is your responsibility to ensure that any pre-colonoscopy testing you may need (EKG, bloodwork, chest x-ray) arrives in our office at least 1 week in advance of your procedure.

You must provide a picture ID and insurance card the day of the procedure.

If you are having your procedure at Overlook Hospital, enter the 5th floor Main Entrance and proceed to the 4th floor Endoscopy Unit.

The primary purpose of a screening colonoscopy is to identify and remove polyps. Polyps are colonic growths which may be benign, pre-cancerous or malignant. It is unclear on sight alone which type they are therefore, it is necessary to remove all types of polyps. Removal of benign and pre-cancerous polyps is all that is necessary for treatment. Occasionally these growths contain a small focus of cancer and further interventions may be necessary. It is very important that this exam be carried out with the proper preparation in order to be able to visualize all polyps. Therefore, we encourage you to complete the preparation as instructed. Colon cancer is largely a preventable disease., given the widespread availability of this technology. Colonoscopy is 90% effective in preventing colon cancer.

Anesthesia

During the exam, you will be sedated by an anesthesiologist with a medication called Diprivan. Most people are unaware that they are having the exam. The procedure usually takes between 15 minutes and 1 hour, depending on your colon. After the exam, you will remain in the recovery room for a short period of time while the sedation wears off.

Polyp removal

There is no pain during or after the polyp removal. Any polyps that are noted and removed during the colonoscopy are recovered for pathological examination. The polyp(s)/biopsies will be closely examined by a pathologist and the results will be available approximately one week after your procedure. You will receive a separate bill from pathology, which is not in our control. 35% of people will have a precancerous polyp removed during the procedure.

Post-op Limitations

You will be wide awake shortly after the procedure. However, you may not drive until the next day. You must arrange for a friend or family member to take you home. Legally, you are not allowed to go home in a taxi or Uber.

Risks

Colonoscopy is a low-risk procedure. The risks of colonoscopy include, but are not limited to, bleeding, infection, and perforation of the colon. The overall risk of screening colonoscopy (visualization only) is 1-3 in 10,000. The risk of therapeutic colonoscopy, colonoscopy with biopsy or polyp removal, is slightly higher. Because of this risk, long air trips should not be scheduled for 7 days following the procedure.

Call our office at 908.273.2886 if you have questions or problems with the preparation or procedure.