

Colonoscopy: Everything You Wanted to Know But Did Not Want to Ask



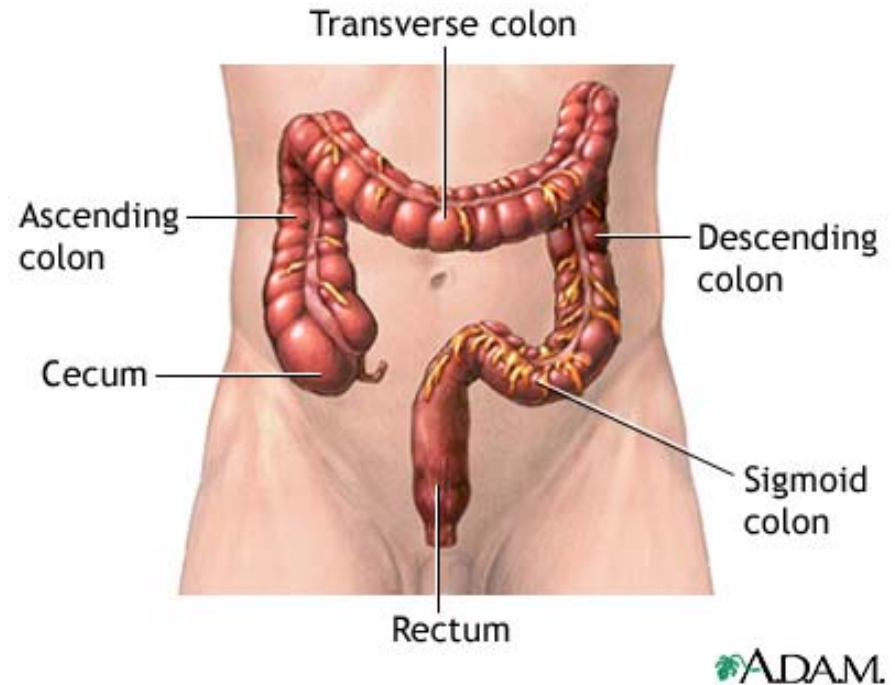
 RUSH UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

IT'S HOW MEDICINE

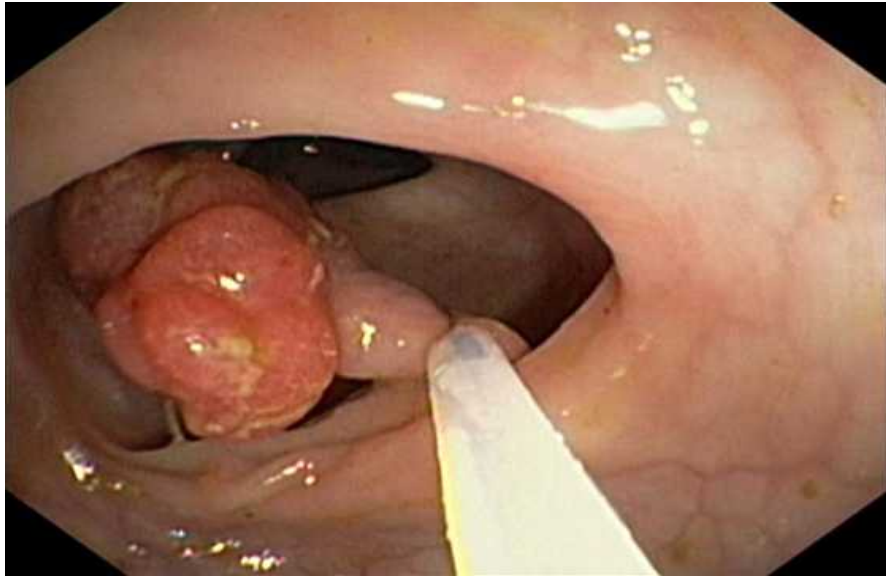
SHOULD BE

What is a Colonoscopy?

- A procedure to see inside your colon and rectum.
 - Detects the presence of and allows your physician to remove polyps

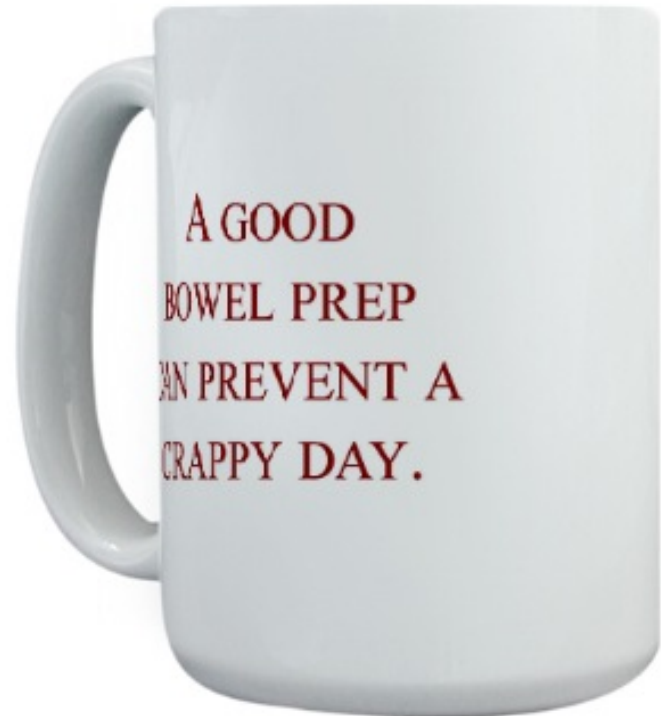


What Are Polyps?

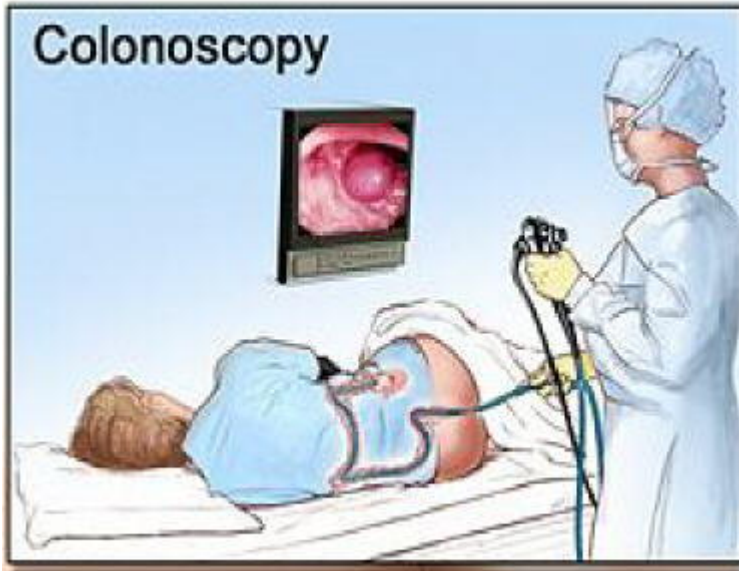


- As we age, our bodies begins to make abnormal cells in different parts of colon, called polyps
- By age 50, 35% of individuals have polyps
- Between 5-15% of polyps become cancer

- Take a bowel prep to clean out your digestive tract
- Follow a clear liquid diet prior to procedure
- Goal = Clear



What Happens during the Procedure?



- You will lie on a table on your left side
- A long, flexible tube, a scope, will be inserted into your anus
- Your physician can remove any polyps found

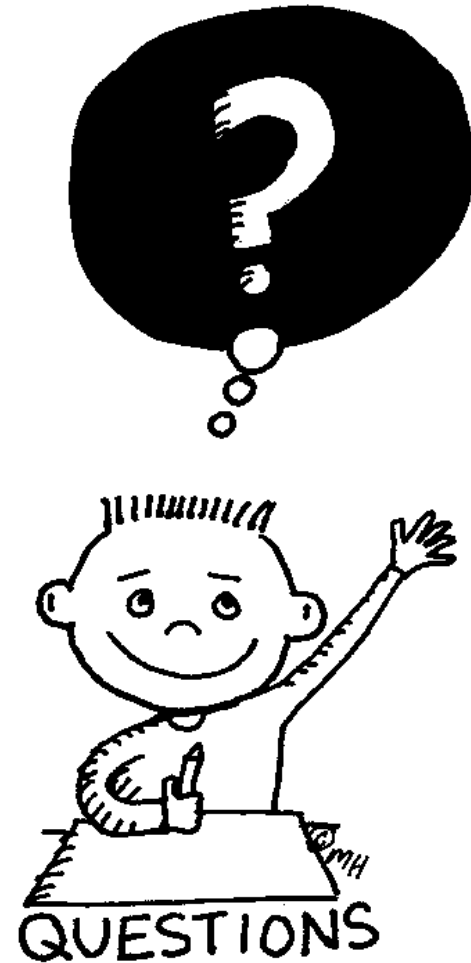
What You Should Know



- Outpatient procedure
- Expect to be here for 2 – 3 hours
- The colonoscopy takes between 30 – 60 minutes
- You **will not** be able to drive home
- A friend or family member **must** accompany you to your procedure

Commonly Asked Questions

- Why do I need a colonoscopy?
- What will I experience taking the prep?
- Does the prep taste awful?
- Is it a risky procedure?
- Does a colonoscopy hurt?
- When can I return to my normal activities?
- What happens if my physician finds polyps?





- Fecal occult blood test (FOBT)
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy
- Double-contrast barium enema
- CT colonography

How to Get a Colonoscopy



- Talk to your primary care physician
- Get a referral to gastroenterologist
- Tell your physician about any medications, including:
 - Aspirin
 - Arthritis medications
 - Blood thinners
 - Diabetes medications
 - Vitamins that contain iron