



WHAT IS A VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY?

Virtual Colonoscopy is a procedure that produces two and three-dimensional images of the colon (large intestine) from the rectum to the lower end of the small intestine. The procedure is commonly used to diagnose bowel and colon disease eg. polyps, diverticulosis and cancer.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I HAVE MY VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY?

At the clinic you will be taken to a change room where you will be asked to change into an examination gown. All metal objects such as keys, clips, buttons, coins and mobile phones must be removed.

You will then be taken to the CT Scanning Room where you will be asked to lie on your side on the scanning table and a thin tube will be inserted into the rectum. You may experience slight discomfort but this should only last a few moments. The technician will then ask you to lie on your stomach while air is pumped into the tube to inflate the colon. You may experience a slight cramping feeling that may last for the duration of the examination. The air allows our technician to provide better images of the colon. The scanning table will then move through the CT scanner and you will be asked to hold your breath during the scan to avoid distortion of the images. We will then repeat this scan with you lying on your stomach. This procedure generally takes between 20-30 minutes. The three dimensional images produced by the computer allow the Radiologist to identify any abnormalities in the bowel.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OR SIDE EFFECTS OF A VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY?

As with all medical procedures there are risks and these will be discussed with you in detail before we commence the procedure. Your doctor has sent you for this test knowing that the information provided by the scan is more beneficial than the very low risk associated with it. The skill of the operator and the design of the machine ensure you receive the lowest radiation dose possible. If you are **pregnant**, or if it is possible that you may be pregnant you should advise the staff at the time of booking as a CT scan is not usually performed unless it is an absolute medical necessity to do so.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THIS PROCEDURE?

At the time of your booking one of our friendly staff will advise you of the preparation and requirements of this scan. You will need to collect a bowel preparation kit from the Exact Radiology Clinics where you are having your scan done. This preparation will commence at lunchtime the day prior to your appointment and will be discussed with you in detail at this time.

Things to bring along to your appointment:

- Previous films for area of clinical interest.
- Medicare or Department of Veteran Affairs card (as we Bulk Bill most eligible Medicare services).
- Referral (this is a legal requirement).

FEES

Exact Radiology Clinics bulk bill most Medicare eligible services but some examinations do incur a fee. Some examinations have a very strict criteria that has to be met before Medicare will offer a rebate.

When you make your appointment, the booking staff will advise if there is a fee applicable and payment is requested on the day of your examination.