

Colonoscopy



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Please review all the instructions about your test and prep as soon as you get them, so you can prepare. You may need to change some of your medicines.

If you need to **cancel or change your test appointment**, call **614-293-8784**.

If you have any **questions about your test or prep instructions**, call **614-293-6255** and ask to talk with a nurse.

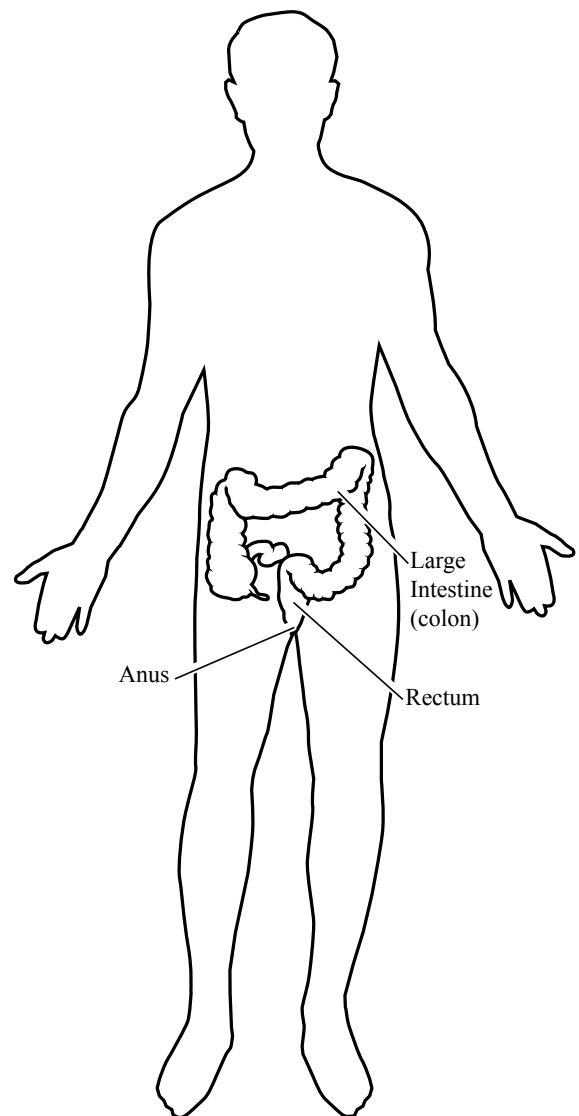
About the test

You are scheduled for a test called a **colonoscopy**. This test checks your large intestine, also called the colon, for abnormal growths or other problems. The test is done with a narrow, flexible tube that has a light and camera. The tube is put in through your rectum and into your colon. The test helps your doctor diagnose illnesses and make plans for treatment, if needed.

You will need to do a bowel prep to clean out your colon a day or two before the test. Follow the instructions for your bowel prep as provided.

Having the test

- After you have registered, you will change into a hospital gown.
- A nurse will review your medicine list and medical history.
- An intravenous (IV) line will be placed to give you medicine during the test. Let the nurse know right away if you have had problems having an IV placed in the past.
- When the nurse has you ready, you will be taken to a private room, where your test will be done.
- You will be given a consent form to read over. The doctor will talk to you and go over the consent form. Ask any questions you have about the test before you sign the form.



- You will be given medicines in your IV to help you relax. You will likely rest on your left side.
- The doctor slowly moves the tube through your colon. The test takes 20 to 40 minutes.
- You may feel some cramping during and after the test that will improve after passing gas.

After the test

- You will be taken to a recovery area for 30 to 45 minutes.
- You will then change back into your clothes.
- The doctor will speak with you and your family member before you leave.
- Plan to take the day off of work and rest at home after the test.
- For your safety, it is best to have an adult with you for at least 6 hours at home.
- The medicine given during the test can cause you to have memory changes and impair your judgment. **Do not drive a motorized vehicle or operate heavy machinery. Do not sign any papers or make any legal decisions.**

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

For more health information, contact the Library for Health Information at **614-293-3707** or e-mail **health-info@osu.edu**.