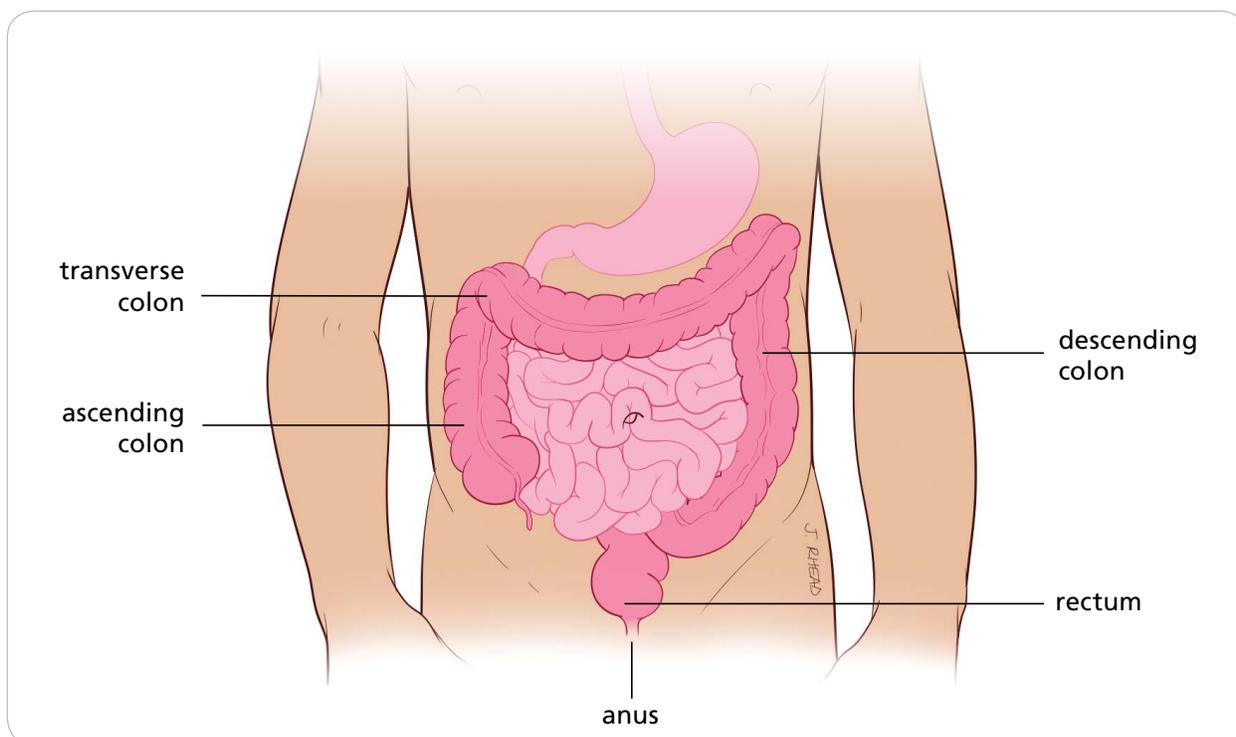


Let's Talk About...

Colonoscopy



What is a colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy [coal-on-AH-scuh-pee] is an exam (test) that looks inside the large intestine. A specially trained doctor performs this exam with a long, flexible tube called a colonoscope [coal-ON-uh-scope]. The exam happens in the endoscopy [end-AH-scuh-pee] lab. The chance of any risks from this exam is usually very low.

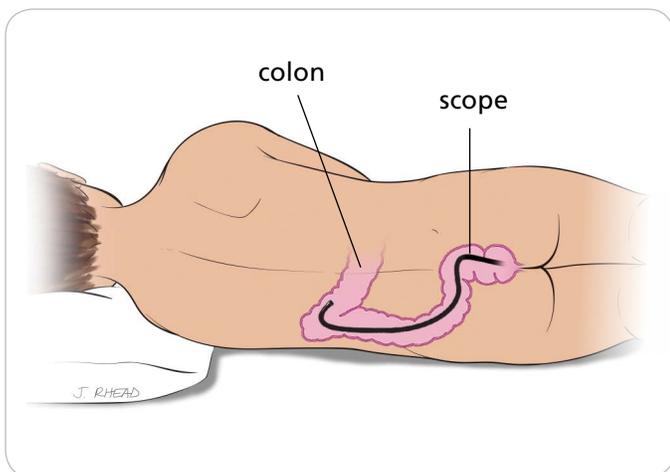
How do I prepare my child for the colonoscopy?

Your child needs to have a clean intestine for the exam. To clean out the large intestine, your child may be allowed to drink only clear fluids before the exam. Your child may also take laxatives, have an enema (a procedure that cleanses the intestines), or both. Your child's doctor will give you specific instructions.

You will check in at outpatient registration at least 1 hour before your scheduled appointment. You need to give your permission for the procedure by signing a consent form. At that time, you will have an opportunity to talk with your child's doctor or nurses. Before the exam, please let your doctor know if your child has any drug allergies.

What happens during a colonoscopy?

Your child will have an IV (a small tube that goes into a vein). Most children have general anesthesia for the colonoscopy. Your child will be asleep for the whole exam and will not be in pain or discomfort. You can find information on anesthesia in the [Let's Talk About: Anesthesia for Children](#). The exam usually takes 45 minutes. Because of limited space in the exam room, parents are not allowed in the room during the exam.



When your child is asleep from the anesthesia, the doctor will insert the colonoscope into the anus. Then the doctor will gently guide it around the curves in the large intestine and inflate the intestine slightly to see the intestine lining. The doctor may pass thin wires through the colonoscope tube to get tiny pieces of the lining for biopsies (tests). These tiny pieces are the size of the head of a pin. The doctor may do other special procedures through the colonoscope to treat certain conditions.

Your child should feel no pain when the doctor takes a biopsy.

What do I do after the colonoscopy?

After the exam, you may be with your child. The doctor will discuss the results of the exam with you. You will also get information about recovery, diet, and recommended activities for your child.

Your child may have some cramping after the procedure. This happens because some air is still in the colon. Once your child can get up and walk around, the air will pass.

What do kids say about the colonoscopy?

No procedure feels the same for every child. Here are examples of what to expect:

Before the colonoscopy

- If your child receives an IV before the procedure, they will remember the IV.

During the colonoscopy

- Your child will be asleep from the anesthesia and should not remember the exam.

After the colonoscopy

- Your child may have a full feeling from the air inserted during the procedure. Children usually feel more comfortable after the air passes.
- Your child may be a little dizzy or confused from the anesthesia.
- Your child may have an upset stomach from the anesthesia.
- You will likely see blood in your child's stool (poop) for 1 to 2 days after the colonoscopy.

When should I call my doctor?

Call your child's doctor if your child:

- Has unusual or severe pain, stomach swelling, a fever, or is vomiting
- Passes a large amount of blood in their stool after the exam
- Has blood-stained stools more than 48 hours after the exam

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