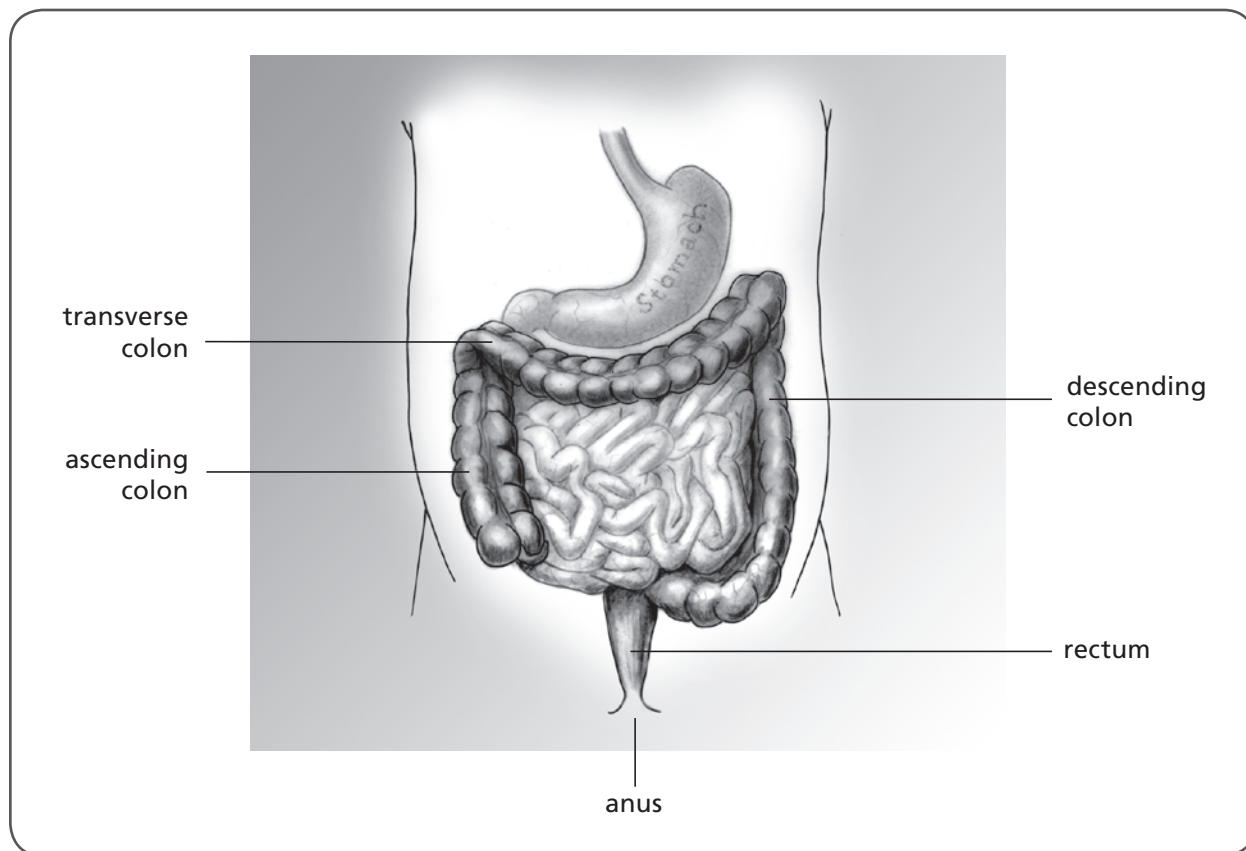


# Let's Talk About...

## Colonoscopy



A colonoscopy (coal-on-AH-scu-h-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-scu-h-pee) lab. Procedure risks are usually very low.

### How do I prepare my child for the exam?

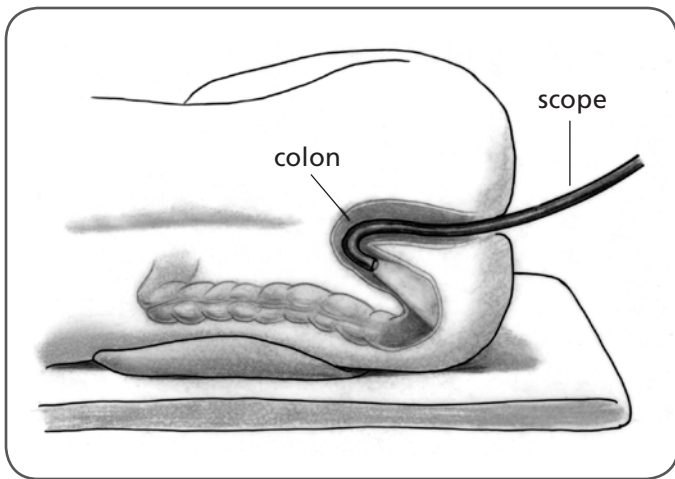
Your child needs to have a clean intestine for the exam. To clean out the large intestine, your child may be allowed to drink only clear fluids before the exam. Your child may also take laxatives, have an enema (a procedure that cleanses the intestines), or both. Your child's doctor will give you specific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

You will check in at outpatient registration at least one 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 another opportunity to talk with your doctor or nurses. Your child will have an IV (small tube that goes into the vein).

Before the exam, please let your doctor know if your child has any drug allergies.

### What happens during a colonoscopy?

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 with 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 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 exam?

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 exam?

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

#### Before the colonoscopy

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

#### During the colonoscopy

- Your child will be asleep during 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 they expel this air.
- Your child may be a little dizzy or confused from the medicine.
- Your child may have an upset stomach from the medicine.
- You will likely see blood in your child's stool (poop) for one to two days after a colonoscopy.

#### Call your doctor if...

- Your child has unusual or severe pain, stomach swelling, vomiting or fever.
- Your child passes a large amount of blood after the exam. You should also call if your child has blood-stained stools more than 48 hours after the test.

If you have any more questions about the exam, please talk to your doctor or nurses.

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