

Colonoscopy — Dulcolax[®], MiraLAX[®] and Magnesium Citrate Prep

Colonoscopy

A colonoscopy is a procedure that lets your health care provider see your large intestine (colon). This procedure is done using a long, flexible tube (a “scope”) that passes into your rectum and through your colon.

The procedure takes about 15 to 30 minutes. You should plan to be at the location for up to 2 hours.

What You Will Need to Buy

- Buy the following ingredients:
 - Dulcolax (bisacodyl) 5 milligram (mg) laxative tablets
 - MiraLAX powder (238-gram bottle)
 - Gatorade[®], Powerade[®] or water (64 ounces)
 - magnesium citrate (10-ounce bottle of liquid or 0.5-ounce package of powder).

The Week Before Your Procedure

- You may receive a phone call from a nurse within 1 week of your procedure.
- Tell your primary care provider if you:
 - take warfarin (Jantoven[®]) or any type of blood thinners
 - take insulin or a diabetes pill. He or she may want to change your dosages.
- **Three days before your procedure,** stop taking iron pills or iron supplements. Do not eat popcorn, seeds or nuts.

Your Procedure

Location: _____

Health care provider: _____

Date: _____

Arrival time: _____ a.m. / p.m.

Procedure time: _____ a.m. / p.m.

Phone number: _____

Call the phone number above if you have questions about your procedure. If you need to cancel or reschedule, call at least 24 hours before your procedure.

- Tell the health care provider performing your procedure if you:
 - are allergic to any medicines or latex
 - are pregnant
 - have bleeding after surgery.
- Arrange to have someone drive you home and stay with you.** You will not be able to drive, take public transportation or return to work after your procedure.

The Day Before Your Procedure

- **For the entire day:** Follow a clear liquid diet. A clear liquid diet consists of water, clear broth or bouillon, soda pop, sports beverages, gelatin (no red gelatin), frozen ice treats on a stick, coffee or tea, and fruit juices without pulp (apple, white grape). You may also have hard candy. **Do not eat solid food.**

(over)

- Drink at least 8 glasses of water.
- **Do not drink:** tomato or orange juice; red-, orange-, purple- or dark blue-colored liquids; alcoholic beverages; milk or non-dairy creamer.
- You may use healing ointment (Vaseline[®], Desitin[®]) on the area around your anus to protect your skin from getting sore.
- ☐ Noon: take 2 Dulcolax tablets with a glass of water.
- ☐ 4 to 6 p.m.: mix all the MiraLAX and Gatorade, Powerade or water in a pitcher. (Do not mix with red liquids.) Stir until the MiraLAX is dissolved. Chill the mixture in the refrigerator. **Do not** add ice.
 - Drink 8 ounces of the mixture every 10 to 15 minutes until it is all gone. You must drink it all.
 - If you begin to have an upset stomach (nausea), slow down and drink 8 ounces of the mixture every 30 to 45 minutes until it is all gone.

The Day of Your Procedure

- Prep results must be clear (toilet bottom visible) without any stool or brown liquid stool. If not, please call the GI team.
- Take any other regular medicines with a small sip of water the morning of your procedure.
- ☐ 4 hours before your arrival time: drink the 10-ounce bottle of magnesium citrate or the 0.5-ounce package of powder magnesium citrate mixed with 10 ounces of water.
- You may have clear liquids up to 4 hours before you are scheduled to arrive for your procedure.
- When you arrive for your procedure, check in at the registration desk.
- Your driver should plan to stay in the facility during your procedure.

- You will be asked to wear a hospital gown and slippers.
- A nurse will review your medical history with you. You will sign a consent form.
- A nurse will insert an intravenous (IV) line into your hand or arm.

Will It Be Uncomfortable?

- You will be given medicine through an IV line to help you relax and reduce your pain. The medicine may put you to sleep.
- You may feel cramping and gas-like pain.
- Take slow deep breaths to help you relax.
- Tell your health care provider or nurse if you are uncomfortable.

After Your Procedure

- Your driver will take you home to rest.
- You may resume your normal foods, beverages and medicines.
- Your stools may not return to normal for 3 to 5 days.
- Your health care provider will talk with you about any problems.

If You Had a Polyp Removed or Other Biopsy Taken

- Look for signs of bleeding such as black or red stools. You may have bleeding up to 2 weeks after your procedure.
- You will receive your results in 1 to 2 weeks.

When to Call Your Health Care Provider

Call your health care provider if you have one or more of the following after your procedure:

- any unusual abdominal or shoulder pain
- temperature higher than 100.5 F
- chills
- rectal bleeding.