

## Colonoscopy information

### What is colonoscopy?

This procedure involves the use of a flexible endoscope/colonoscope to visually inspect the large bowel (also called colon). The colonoscope is around the thickness of the index finger & is capable of transmitting a video image to a television monitor. A working channel within the scope allows the passage of instruments to perform tasks, such as polypectomy, treating bleeding or biopsies from the lining of the bowel.

### Indications for colonoscopy:

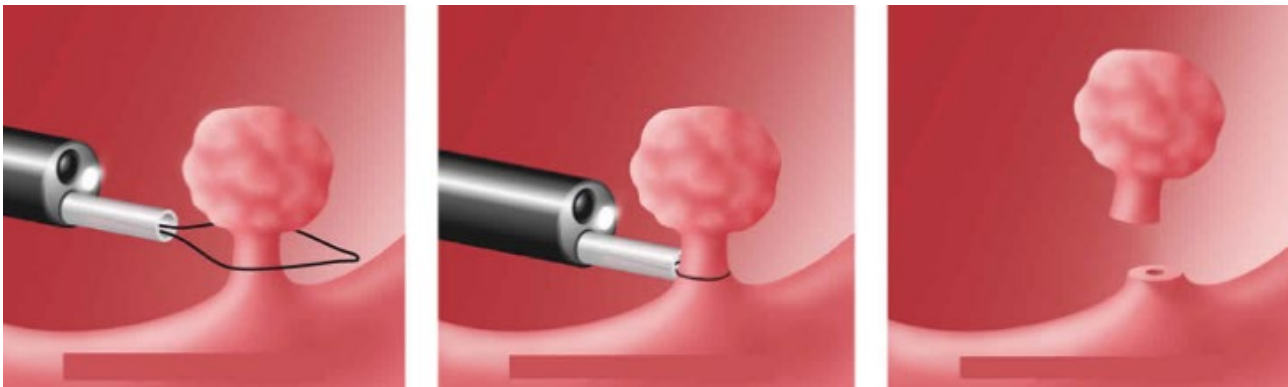
There are many reasons colonoscopy may be indicated, but some of the more common include:

- Rectal bleeding
- Iron deficiency and/or anaemia
- Family history of colorectal polyps or cancers
- Altered bowel habit
- Sudden or unexplained weight loss.

### What is a Polyp?

A bowel polyp is an abnormal fleshy growth from the inner lining of the bowel. Approximately half of all Australians will eventually grow colorectal polyps, but majority of these will remain undetected. If polyps are left untreated over many years a small number of them can turn into cancers. Polyps can vary in type, size, shape, location and number.

*Image of polyp removal:*



### On the day of your procedure:

You will be greeted by an admission nurse to check details and ensure you're ready for procedure. You will meet with your anaesthetist and myself prior to the procedure. A small cannula will be placed into a vein in your arm by the anaesthetist. This will allow the anaesthetist to deliver sedative medications during the procedure. You will drift off to sleep and have little memory of the subsequent events until you wake in recovery. A typical procedure takes between 20-45 minutes to complete, and it is rare any discomfort is felt afterwards.



### Risks of colonoscopy:

Colonoscopy is safe and complications are rare. Significant complications occur in less than 1 in 1000 procedures.

Risks can include, but not limited to:

- There is a small chance an abnormality may not be detected, particularly if bowel preparation is sub-optimal.
- Intolerance to the bowel preparation – some develop dizziness, headaches, cramps, nausea and vomiting.
- Reaction to sedatives or anaesthetics – uncommon, but can occur in people with severe lung or heart disease.
- Major bleeding from bowel – usually if polyp removal has been performed.
- Perforation (creating a hole) in the colon. Usually in the context of polyp removal.
- Some complications can be serious and life-threatening, necessitating hospitalisation, blood transfusion and even surgery.
- Death is a very remote possibility. However, all care is taken by me and my team to ensure that your procedure runs as safely and comfortable as possible.

If you develop any symptoms of concern after your procedure contact the local hospital or my rooms immediately:

## Colonoscopy consent form

Do you understand what is being done, and why?	YES/NO
Do you understand the risks associated with this procedure?	YES/NO
Do you understand that polyps, if found, may have to be removed?	YES/NO
Are you satisfied that your preparation was successful?	YES/NO
Do you have a companion with you to drive you home?	YES/NO

I have read and fully understand the information provided in this form on Colonoscopy.

I agree to having a Colonoscopy and give my consent to Dr Allen to perform the procedure, and other intervention as is deemed appropriate at the time of Colonoscopy.

Patient Signature:

Dr Allen signature:

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