INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLONOSCOPY

USING MIRALAX

Important – Please read this instruction sheet completely

1. Purchase one 238 gram bottle of MiraLAX, two Dulcolax Laxative Tablets (bisacodyl) and 64 ozs. of Gatorade (no red or orange).

2. Stay on clear liquids the entire day before the examination.

   - Juices without pulp (apple, white grape, lemonade)
   - water or tea
   - plain Jell-O (no red or orange)

   - soda or non-carbonated soft drinks
   - clear broth or bouillon
   - ice pops (no red or orange)

3. On the morning prior to the procedure, mix MiraLAX and Gatorade and refrigerate.

4. At 3:00 PM, take two Dulcolax Laxative Tablets (bisacodyl).

5. At 5:00 PM, begin drinking the refrigerated solution. Drink one 8 oz. glass every 15 minutes until completed.

6. After finishing the solution, you may have clear liquids until midnight.

7. If for any reason you are unable to finish the solution or have a problem with it, please call the office immediately. The number is on the website.

8. **You are to have nothing to eat or drink (including gum and breath mints) after 12 midnight except for medications with a sip of water** (please read important notices below).

**IMPORTANT NOTICES**

Please be sure that a member of your family or a friend accompanies you to and from the office to drive you home. This is necessary because of the sedation you will be given for the examination. You are not permitted to drive at any time following the procedure. You may resume driving the following day. You must have arrangements to have a friend or family member take you home after the procedure. Taxis are not acceptable.

Please take your heart or blood pressure medications with a sip of water 4 hours prior to the procedure. Please read page 2 of this letter regarding discontinuation of blood thinners.

Do not take oral diabetes medication the morning of the examination. If you are diabetic taking insulin, you are instructed to contact the prescribing physician for necessary insulin dosage adjustments.

IF YOU MUST CANCEL THE COLONOSCOPY, PLEASE INFORM US NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE PROCEDURE.
PRE-PROCEDURAL INSTRUCTIONS

MEDICATION RESTRICTIONS

1. If you take anticoagulants or “blood thinners”, please speak with your cardiologist or family physician before stopping these medications.

   **Anticoagulants:**
   
   Aggrenox - 5 days  
   Plavix - 7 days  
   Ticlid - 7 days  
   Coumadin - 5 days  
   Pletal - 3 days  
   Trental - 7 days  
   Lovenox - 24 hours

2. If you take aspirin or aspirin-containing medications for heart problems, circulation problems or are unsure, please contact your cardiologist or family physician on whether or not these medications should be held.

   If you **DO NOT** have heart or circulation problems, stop aspirin and all aspirin-containing medications FIVE (5) days before your procedure.

   **Aspirin-containing medications:**
   
   Ascripton  
   Ecotrin  
   Fiorinal  
   Percodan  
   Bayer  
   Empirin  
   Lortab ASA  
   Soma Compound  
   Bufferin  
   Enteric-coated aspirin  
   Momentum  
   St. Joseph Aspirin  
   Darvon Compound 65  
   Excedrin  
   Norgesc Forte P-A-C  
   Wygesic

3. **Stop ALL NON-ASPIRIN AND NON-STERoidal PAIN RELIEVERS THREE (3) DAYS before your procedure.**

   **Non-aspirin containing medications:**
   
   Advil  
   Daypro  
   Ketoralac  
   Relafen  
   Aleve  
   Diclofenac  
   Lodine  
   Sulindac  
   Anaprox  
   Dolobid  
   Meloxicam  
   Trilisate  
   Ansaid  
   Feldene  
   Mobic  
   Vicoprofen  
   Arthrotec  
   Flurbiprofen  
   Motrin  
   Voltaren  
   Catafalm  
   Ibuprofen  
   Naprosyn  
   Clinoril  
   Indocin  
   Naproxen

4. There are **NO RESTRICTIONS** on the following pain medications:

   Acetaminophen (Tylenol) containing products (Tylenol, Darvocet, etc.), as well as:

   Avinza  
   Fioricet  
   Neurontin  
   Ultracet  
   Baclofen  
   Flexeril  
   Oxy IR  
   Ultram  
   Bextra  
   Kadian  
   Oxycontin  
   Valium  
   Celebrex  
   Lorche  
   Pamelor  
   Vicoden  
   Darvocet  
   Lortab  
   Panadol  
   Zanaflex  
   Duragesic Patches  
   Methadone  
   Percocet  
   Zonegram  
   Elavil  
   MS Contin  
   Percogesic  
   Excedrin-Aspirin Free  
   MSIR  
   Trileptal

If you have any questions, please call our office about your medications.
What is a colonoscopy? Colonoscopy is a procedure that enables your physician to examine the lining of the colon (large bowel) for abnormalities by inserting a flexible tube that is about the thickness of your finger into the anus and advancing it slowly into the rectum and colon.

What preparation is required? The colon must be completely clean for the procedure to be accurate and complete. Your physician will give you detailed instructions regarding the dietary restrictions to be followed and the cleansing routine to be used. Follow your doctor’s instructions carefully. If you do not, the procedure may have to be canceled and repeated later.

What can be expected during a colonoscopy? Colonoscopy is usually well tolerated. There is often a feeling of pressure, bloating or cramping at times during the procedure. Your doctor may give you medication through a vein to help you relax and better tolerate any discomfort from the procedure. You will be lying on your side or on your back while the colonoscope is advanced slowly through the large intestine. As the colonoscope is slowly withdrawn, the lining is again carefully examined. The procedure usually takes 15-60 minutes. In some cases, passage of the colonoscope through the entire colon to its junction with the small intestine cannot be achieved. The physician will decide if the limited examination is sufficient or if other examinations are necessary.

What if the colonoscopy shows something abnormal? If your doctor thinks an area of the bowel needs to be evaluated in greater detail, a forceps instrument is passed through the colonoscope to obtain a biopsy (a sample of the colon lining). This specimen is submitted to the pathology laboratory for analysis. If polyps are found, they are generally removed. None of these additional procedures typically produce pain. Remember, biopsies are taken for many reasons and do not necessarily mean that cancer is present.

What are polyps and why are they removed? Polyps are abnormal growths from the lining of the colon which vary in size from a tiny dot to several inches. The majority of polyps are benign (noncancerous), but the doctor cannot always tell a benign from a malignant (cancerous) polyp by its outer appearance alone. For this reason, removed polyps are sent for tissue analysis. Removal of colon polyps is an important means of preventing colorectal cancer. Tiny polyps may be totally destroyed by fulguration (burning), but larger polyps are removed by a technique called snare polypectomy. The doctor passes a wire loop (snare) through the colonoscope and severs the attachment of the polyp from the intestinal wall by means of an electrical current. You should feel no pain during the polypectomy. There is a small risk that removing a polyp will cause bleeding or result in a burn to the wall of the colon which could require emergency surgery.

What happens after a colonoscopy? After a colonoscopy, your physician will explain the results to you. If you have been given medications during the procedure, someone must accompany you home from the procedure because of the sedation used during the examination. Even if you feel alert after the procedure, your judgment and reflexes may be impaired by the sedation for the rest of the day making it unsafe for you to drive or operate any machinery. You may have some cramping or bloating because of the air introduced into the colon during the examination. This should disappear quickly with passage of flatus (gas). Generally, you should be able to eat after leaving the colonoscopy, but your doctor may restrict your diet and activities, especially after polypectomy.

What are the possible complications of a colonoscopy? Colonoscopy and polypectomy are generally safe when performed by physicians who have been specially trained and are experienced in these endoscopic procedures. One possible complication is a perforation or tear through the bowel wall that could require surgery. Bleeding may occur from the site of biopsy or polypectomy. It is usually minor and stops on its own or can be controlled through the colonoscope. Bleeding can occur several days after a polypectomy. Rarely, blood transfusions or surgery may be required. Other potential risks include a reaction to the sedatives used and complications from heart or lung disease. Localized irritation of the vein where medications were injected may rarely cause a tender lump lasting for several weeks, but this will go away eventually. Applying hot packs or hot moist towels may help relieve discomfort. Although complications after colonoscopy are uncommon, it is important for you to recognize early signs of any possible complication. Contact your physician who performed the colonoscopy if you notice any of the following symptoms: severe abdominal pain, fever and chills or rectal bleeding of more than one-half cup.

How accurate is colonoscopy? Colonoscopy is an accurate method to detect colon cancer and polyps but is not perfect. There may be up to a 10% miss rate for detecting polyps or other growths. It is also important to know that a colonoscopy screening program can reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of developing cancer.