

WHAT IS VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY?

Virtual colonoscopy is a non-invasive procedure that examines the colon with the use of a CT scanner. Images are created that are the equivalent of looking at the colon from the inside. Abnormalities such as polyps can be detected with high sensitivity using this technique.

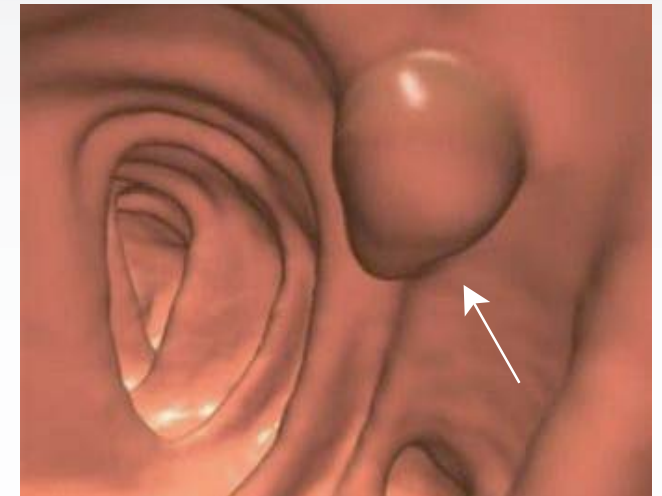
Preparation

Virtual colonoscopy (VC) requires the large bowel (colon) be cleansed of all solid waste matter. This is true for all tests performed on the colon. If you undergo VC at Insight Medical Imaging, you will be provided with a kit that includes a low-fibre diet and medication to assist bowel cleansing. Simply follow the provided instructions and you are ready for the exam. There is no need to find special foods or medications.

WHO SHOULD CONSIDER VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY?

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer death in Canada. With early detection over 90% of colorectal cancers can be prevented or curatively treated. Many cancer organizations recommend routine screening for asymptomatic individuals who are at average risk for CRC. If you are 50 years of age or older you are in this risk group.

Virtual colonoscopy is ideally suited for screening because most cancers begin as polyps – a known precursor to cancer. VC is able to detect these polyps so they can be removed.



3D VIEW OF A COLON POLYP

COLORECTAL CANCER
SCREENING WITH
VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY

HOW IS THE STUDY PERFORMED?

On the day of the examination patients are positioned in the CT scanner and a very small catheter is inserted into the rectum. Carbon dioxide gas is then introduced through the tube to fill the colon and help produce high quality CT images. Carbon dioxide has the advantages of being very safe and very quickly absorbed so there is no persistent gassy feeling after the test.

VC is performed on an outpatient basis. All that is required is a requisition from your doctor.* Once the scan is completed you are free to leave. There is no mess, no sedation and no gassy feeling. One of our Royal College-certified Radiologists will interpret your study and your doctor will promptly receive a report.

** Virtual colonoscopy is not reimbursed by Alberta Health and Wellness, so there is a cost for the examination. Insight Medical Imaging offers a variety of payment options. For more information please feel free to contact one of our Central Booking agents at 780-669-2222. There is no obligation and your inquiries are welcome.*

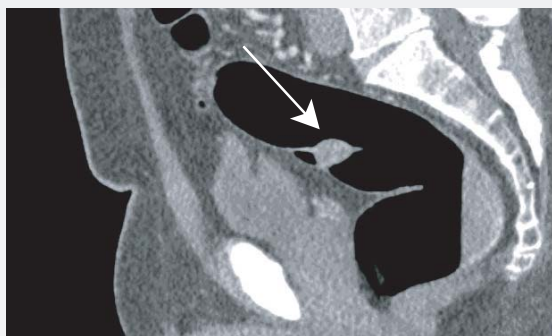
ARE THERE OTHER SCREENING TOOLS?

There are other screening methods such as Stool Testing and Optical Colonoscopy.

Stool testing is considered to be low specificity and cannot detect all cancers.

Optical Colonoscopy (which uses a scope with a small camera to directly visualize the colon) is very sensitive and is needed to remove sizable polyps found with Virtual Colonoscopy but requires more time, uses sedation, has occasional complications and may need more rigorous bowel preparation.

Virtual Colonoscopy is not limited by any of these factors. It is sensitive, safe and minimally time consuming.



2D VIEW OF A COLON POLYP

BOOKING A VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY EXAM

If you would like to know more about Virtual Colonoscopy and CRC screening or to book a Virtual Colonoscopy exam, speak with your doctor or visit us online at:

www.x-ray.ca



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