CT Colonoscopy Virtual (Pneumocolon)

Introduction
This leaflet tells you about having a CT Colonoscopy scan or Pneumocolon. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are.

A radiographer who is highly trained will perform your scan and it will then be interpreted by a specially trained doctor called a radiologist.

What is a CT Colonoscopy?
This is an examination of the large bowel using air. A CT scanner uses x-rays to produce a series of cross sectional images which are reconstructed by a computer. This information may help your consultant with diagnosis and planning of any treatment.

Who will be present for the scan?
Radiographers and radiographic assistants will be present in the room to prepare you for the scan, they will introduce themselves at the start of the procedure.

Occasionally student radiographers may be present to observe the scan.

Is there any preparation needed before my scan?
You will have been asked to prepare your bowel and adjust your diet so that we can see it fully with the scan. Please see the instructions that are enclosed with your appointment letter, it is very important to follow these carefully.

Please note this procedure cannot be performed via a colostomy. If you have a colostomy please contact the department on the 01392 402336, selecting option 1, option 5 before taking any of the preparation.

Can I bring a friend/relative?
Yes, but for reasons of safety they will not be able to accompany you into the x-ray room.

Valuables
Patients are encouraged to leave their valuables at home. It is the patient’s responsibility to ensure all valuables are on their person before leaving the Medical Imaging Department.

What happens during the scan?
- On arrival you will be asked to change into a gown by a member of staff.
- You will be asked to visit the toilet to empty any remaining contents from your bowel.
- You will then be taken into the CT room and asked to lie on your back on the scan table. A small needle will be used to insert a line into a vein in your arm.
- An injection of buscopan is given which reduces the amount of peristalsis (movement) in the bowel.
- You will be asked to roll on to your left hand side and a catheter (tube) is inserted into your back passage through which air is pumped to outline the bowel. You will feel full at this time.
■ You will then be positioned in the scanner lying on your back.

■ We will make you comfortable and answer any queries you may have. The scan will then be taken.

■ A contrast dye is injected through the line already in the vein in your arm. This highlights blood vessels within the organs.

■ The radiographer will leave the room during the scan, but will be able to talk to you through an intercom.

■ A second scan is performed and the radiographer will ask you to lie on your tummy for this.

Will it hurt?

You will feel full and bloated as the air distends the bowel, but the buscopan injection helps to stop this from being painful.

How long will it take?

The length of the examination usually is around 20 minutes but will vary depending on how quickly the air passes around the bowel.

You can expect to be in the Medical Imaging Department for up to one hour.

What happens after the scan?

After the scans the pressure is released. The catheter and line are removed and you will be able to go home after the examination. A radiologist will report on the scan images.

What will happen to the results?

We aim to report examinations, as soon as possible. Results will be sent to the Doctor who referred you for the investigation, as they may need further review and therefore it could be approximately 20 days before you are contacted by your Doctor.

Are there any risks or complications?

Pregnant women should not have a CT scan, as there is a small risk that x-rays may cause an abnormality to the unborn child. Be sure to tell your doctor or the radiographer if you think there is a chance you may be pregnant.

The contrast dye used in CT scans contains iodine. Prior to IV contrast being given you will be asked if you have any known allergies or kidney problems.

Buscopan may rarely precipitate acute glaucoma. If you develop a painful eye in the 24 hours following the procedure you should attend A&E immediately.

There is small risk of a Bowel perforation (less than 1 in 1,000). Most of these cases do not develop symptoms or need treatment.

Cancelling your appointment

If you are unable to attend your appointment, we would be grateful if you could contact us on 01392 402336 selecting option one, option four as soon as possible. We can then offer your original appointment to another patient. A further date and time will then be arranged for you.

Please be advised that if you fail to attend your appointment, it may be necessary to remove you from the radiology waiting list.

Please note: If you have had D&V (diarrhoea and vomiting) you will need to re-book your appointment unless you have been clear for the past 48 hours.

Contact us

If you have any or queries or concerns you can contact us on: 01392 402336.
How to get to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital at Wonford

Park & Ride

Our Dartline PR3 Park & Ride bus is quick and not expensive.
It runs from Wonford Hospital to Digby. Digby is near Tesco, the railway station and junction 30 of the M5. There are signs along some of the main roads into Exeter pointing to the RD&E park and ride.

The park and ride service runs from Monday - Friday. There is no service at the weekend

By bus

Stagecoach buses H Service run to Wonford Hospital from the high street in the city centre Monday to Saturday. Limited Sunday service. They also run to Wonford Hospital from the Broadfields area.

Stagecoach buses from Exmouth (57), Dawlish (2), Torbay (X46), Teignmouth (2) and Plymouth (X38) stop next to the hospital on Barrack Road.

First Southern National bus X53 from Weymouth, Seaton, Beer and Sidford stops next to the hospital on Barrack Road. Turner’s Tours bus 369 from Chulmleigh, Lapford, Morchard Bishop and Crediton stops next to the hospital on Barrack Road and outside the main front entrance of the hospital.

By car

Follow signposts to the hospital from most of the main routes into Exeter. Follow signposts in the hospital grounds to our car parks.

Car parking is by pay & display, so please bring change.

The number of spaces is limited, so please leave plenty of time to find a space.

Using Sat Nav to find us?

Tap in postcode: EX2 5DW for RD&E Wonford

For more information on how to get to the hospital and current car parking charges please use the following website:

www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/where

For more information on the Medical Imaging Department, please visit our website:

www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/services/medical-imaging

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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