

## 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.

### 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 introduced 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 may be 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. If you have had an injection of a contrast agent it is recommended that you do not drive for 1 hour. A radiologist will report on the scan images.

## 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 intravenous 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 (fewer than 1 in 3000 tests). Most of these cases do not develop symptoms or need treatment.

## Finally

If you found reading your leaflet difficult, you do not understand what it means for you, if you have any queries or concerns you can contact us on: **01392 402336** and we can talk it through.

## How to get to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital at Wonford

Please refer to the enclosed "Welcome to the Medical Imaging Department" leaflet or use the Trusts website for the latest information:  
**[www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/where](http://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](http://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/services/medical-imaging)**

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