

Pt Name \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_

### Open Access Colonoscopy

A colonoscopy lets the physician look inside your entire large intestine, from the lowest part, the rectum, all the way up through the colon, to the lower end of the small intestine. The procedure is used to diagnose the causes of unexplained changes in bowel habits, signs of cancer in the colon and rectum, inflamed tissue, abnormal growth, ulcers, bleeding, and muscle spasms.

For the procedure, you will lie on your left side on the examining table. You will be given medication to keep you comfortable, and to sedate you during the exam. The physician will insert a long, flexible tube into your rectum, and slowly guide it through your colon. The tube is called a colonoscope. The scope transmits an image of the inside of the colon so the physician can examine the lining of the colon. The scope also blows air into you colon, which inflates the colon and helps the physician see well. Most of the air is removed after the examination is finished.

If anything unusual is in your colon, like a polyp or inflamed tissue, the physician can remove it using the instruments passed through the scope. That tissue(s), the biopsy, is then sent to a lab for testing. Although it is a sensitive test, a colonoscopy can miss abnormalities. If there is bleeding in the colon, the physician can use instruments through the scope to stop bleeding.

Although complications are unlikely, the following are potential risk:

1. Reaction to medication given for sedation
2. Inflammation of the IV site
3. Perforation of the colon wall
4. Bleeding from the colon
5. Failure to detect polyp(s) or cancer

A colonoscopy takes 10–45 minutes. The medicine should keep you from feeling discomfort during the exam. The majority of patients remember nothing about the procedure. You will need to remain at the hospital/surgical facility for approximately one hour afterwards or until the medication wears off.

### Preparation

Your colon must be completely empty for the colonoscopy to be thorough and safe. To prepare for the procedure, you must follow a clear liquid diet and use a laxative solution or pills on the day before the procedure. A clear liquid diet means bouillon/broth, Jell-O, Popsicles, strained fruit juice, water, coffee, colas, and tea. Also you must arrange for someone to take you home after the procedure. You will not be allowed to drive because of the sedation.

If you have any questions, please contact our office @ \_\_\_\_\_.

I have read and understand the above risks and complications. I also understand the physician will review them again prior to my colonoscopy on the procedure day.

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

PATIENT COPY – Please keep copy for your records