

# who is affected?

- Over 130,000 new cases diagnosed each year
- Greater than 50,000 deaths annually attributable to colon cancer
- Second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S.
- Equal risk in men and women
- Women over age 60 are more likely to be diagnosed with colon cancer than breast cancer
- Women are five times more likely to be diagnosed with colon cancer than cervical cancer
- One in sixteen individuals who are at average risk will develop colon cancer in their lifetime
- Colon cancer risk increases as high as 3 fold if a family history of colon cancer or polyps exists
- The risk of colon cancer increases exponentially beginning at age 50

# where does it begin?

- The precise cause is unknown
- Ninety-five percent of colon cancers begin in colon polyps
- Polyps and early colon cancer typically **do not** cause any symptoms
- Early detection and removal of colon polyps, which are benign growths on the colon wall, dramatically reduces colon cancer risk

# what are the symptoms?

- Most colon cancers have no symptoms until the disease is far advanced
- Concerning symptoms that suggest the possibility of serious colon problems include the following:
  - Rectal bleeding
  - Recent change in bowel habits (constipation, diarrhea, change in stool size)
  - Abdominal pain
  - Unintentional weight loss

# what are my screening options?

## **Fecal Occult Blood Testing**

Stool specimens are obtained by the patient using a kit from the physician's office. A developing solution is used to test for microscopic blood in the stool.

## **Flexible Sigmoidoscopy**

A flexible scope examination of the left side of the colon is performed in the doctor's office without the use of sedation.

## **Air Contrast Barium Enema**

Barium and air are pumped into the colon through a small tube inserted in the rectum to obtain x-rays of the colon. No anesthesia is administered.

## **Colonoscopy**

A flexible scope examination of the entire colon which is administered under sedation for patient comfort.

screening options

begin  
screening for  
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individuals  
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**50**



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## what is a colonoscopy?

Colonoscopy is a flexible scope examination of the entire colon which is administered under sedation for patient comfort.

Colonoscopy is the *only* test that allows for removal of precancerous colon polyps.

## what are the advantages of colonoscopy?

- Direct scope examination of entire colon (sigmoidoscopy examines only 1/3rd of colon)
- Most accurate screening test for detecting cancerous and precancerous lesions
- Only screening test that allows for removal of precancerous colon polyps
- Sedation administered to ensure patient comfort

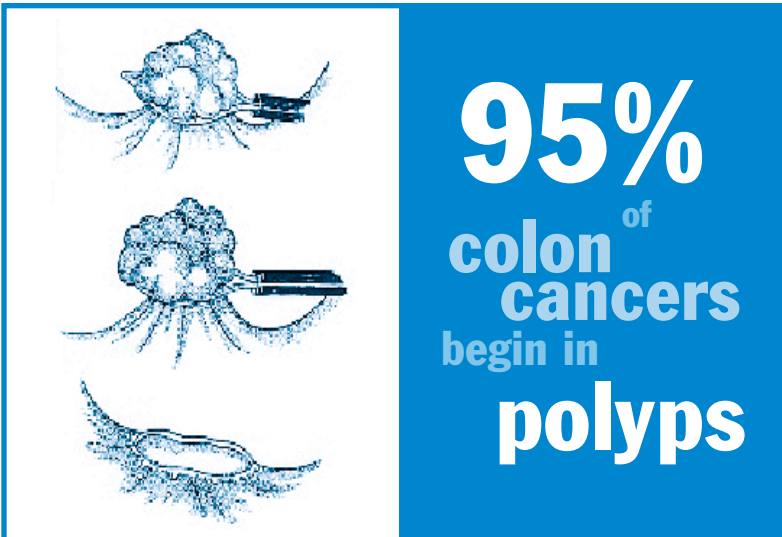
## Bowel Preparation

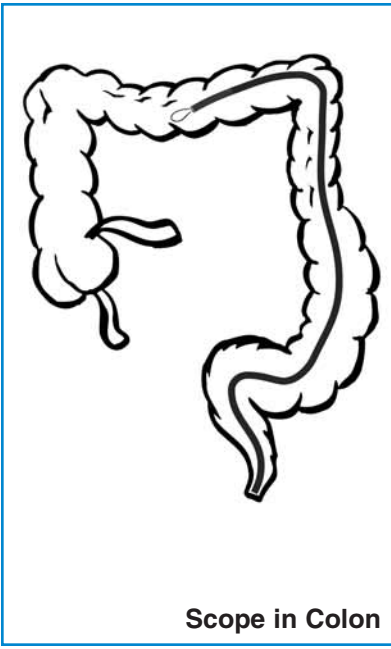
In order to properly examine the entire internal surface of the colon wall, the colon must be cleaned out thoroughly. Dietary modifications begin the day before the test and a bowel preparation solution is taken by mouth. The nursing staff will provide detailed verbal and written instructions for the bowel prep process.

## Procedure

On the day of your procedure, you will report to the surgery center at the scheduled time. A brief intake examination will be performed and an intravenous catheter will be inserted into your arm by the nursing staff. After you are taken to the procedure room, the intravenous sedation will be administered. Your vital signs will be monitored carefully throughout the entire procedure. The flexible video endoscope will then be inserted into your rectum and advanced through the colon to the level of the small intestine. A careful examination is performed as the scope is withdrawn. If colon polyps are identified during the exam, they will be removed using specialized catheter devices passed through the scope. Polyp removal is not painful. The procedure takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

Following the procedure, you will be taken to the recovery area where you will continue to be monitored as you recover from the effects of the sedation. Finally, an assessment is performed to determine if you are ready to go home. The doctor will speak to you and a family member prior to your departure. The results of the procedure and management plan will be briefly discussed at that time. We encourage you to have a family member present as you may not have full recall of the conversation due to the lingering effects of the sedatives.





Scope in Colon



### Recovery

Following the procedure, you may have lingering effects of the sedation for several hours. For this reason, we insist that you have someone present with you to drive you home. You should not plan to perform any mentally or physically taxing activities until the following morning. You may return to work the following day.

### Side Effects & Risks

Mild abdominal bloating and distension may occur for a short period of time following the procedure until air is expelled from the colon. Bleeding may occasionally occur after the removal of polyps. Serious risks with colonoscopy are extremely rare. In rare instances, a tear in the colon wall may occur. These circumstances may lead to hospitalization and, rarely, surgery.

There are also rare risks associated with anesthesia including an allergic response to the medication that can result in local skin irritation, respiratory distress and, in extremely rare instances, death.

# colonoscopy procedure

# commonly asked questions

## **Will I be put to sleep for my procedure?**

Intravenous sedation will be administered to you before and during your procedure. The sedation is intended to keep you comfortable during your endoscopic exam. However, many patients will have no recollection of the procedure because of the “amnesia” effect of the sedatives. The effects of the medication may last as long as 24 hours.

## **Will I be able to drive home after my test?**

Due to the lingering effects of sedatives given to you during your procedure, you will not be permitted to drive after your procedure. You may safely resume driving the morning following your test.

## **When will I be able to go back to work?**

You should prepare to return to your normal work routine on the morning following your procedure. We advise that you not plan to perform any mentally or physically taxing activities for at least 12 hours after completing the exam.

## **How long does the test take to perform?**

Most endoscopic exams are completed in 20 to 30 minutes. However, we also need to prepare you for your procedure as well as recover you from the effects of the sedation following your procedure. Generally, you will spend approximately 2 hours in our ambulatory surgery center.

## **Will I have any pain or discomfort after the test?**

Colonoscopy is generally a painless procedure. Occasionally, patients will have retained air in the colon that can lead to temporary abdominal distension and cramps following the exam.

## **What happens if you find polyps during my colonoscopy?**

Because many polyps have cancer potential, they are removed from the colon wall when found during colonoscopy. Catheter based techniques allow for removal of polyps through the scope.

## **How often will I need to have this test?**

The frequency of colonoscopy is determined by an individual's risk for colon cancer. This is influenced by family history and the presence or absence of colon polyps on your initial or subsequent exams.



# will my insurance cover the procedure?

## **Medicare Beneficiaries**

Screening colonoscopy is an approved benefit for Medicare beneficiaries beginning at age 65.

## **Private Medical Insurance**

Our office will precertify all procedures through your private insurance carrier in advance of your scheduled procedure date. Even though we have taken these measures, this is not a guarantee of payment as noted by the insurance companies disclaimer. You will need to personally contact your insurance company if you have concerns regarding payment issues. We will notify you in advance if your insurance provider denies the recommended procedure.

## **Pathology Services**

If biopsies are taken or if a polyp is removed, these specimens will be submitted to an outside pathology laboratory for diagnostic evaluation. These services will be billed to you separately by the pathology lab. The laboratory billing office will file your insurance claims for you, however, you will be responsible for any portion not covered by your insurance.

early  
colon cancer  
typically  
causes  
**no**  
symptoms



Recovery / Post-Op Area

# where is the procedure performed?

## **Associated Endoscopy, LLC**

5653 Frist Blvd., Suite 532

Hermitage, TN 37076

615.316.3066

Endoscopic procedures must be performed in an environment promoting safety and comfort.

***Associated Endoscopy, LLC*** is a free standing surgery center similar to the outpatient hospital setting specializing in the safe, personalized and cost-effective delivery of gastrointestinal endoscopic services.

***Associated Endoscopy, LLC*** is certified by the **Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care**. The facility is Medicare approved and is a preferred provider for most insurance carriers in Middle Tennessee.