

COLONOSCOPY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How quickly will the diarrhea start after drinking the preparation?

Typically, diarrhea begins 1 to 3 hours after starting to drink the fluid. However, some patients take longer. For Suprep patients, If you have no diarrhea by 8:00 PM, you may take Milk of Magnesia 30 mL (TWO tablespoons). If that is not effective, you may take another 30 mL at 11:00 PM. For 2L or 3L prep patients, take an additional 2-3 glasses of the prep until diarrhea starts.

2 The mixture makes me sick to my stomach. What should I do?

If you experience nausea or vomiting while drinking the mixture, stop drinking for one hour then resume drinking at a slower rate – 4 ounces every 15 minutes. If nausea persists, take a Zofran 4 mg tablet (2 provided); you may repeat this in 6 hours, if needed. If you have a history of nausea, take the Zofran 30 minutes prior to each dose of prep. Drinking the prep through a straw is also helpful.

3. How long will the procedure take?

The procedure itself typically takes 20 to 30 minutes but may take longer if a polyp is removed or a biopsy is performed. You should allow 1 ½-2 hours for your entire visit.

4. Can I drive after the colonoscopy?

No, you may not drive the day of the procedure. This is because we will give you medication to help you relax during the procedure. Bring an adult driver with you who can assist you after the procedure. Uber or taxi are not permitted forms of transportation, unless you have an responsible adult riding with you.

5. What kind of anesthesia will I receive for my procedure?

You will be sedated with moderate sedation. This is NOT general anesthesia, you will be breathing on your own, but sedated enough to be comfortable during the procedure. You will speak to the anesthesiologist prior to the procedure. If you have a prior history of difficulty with anesthesia, please call the Digestive Care Center Manager at 434-817-8484 ext. 194.

6. Will I have pain after the procedure?

Some patients experience mild abdominal cramping after the procedure. This usually resolves within several hours once the gas passes out of the colon. If you have severe pain or pain for more than 24 hours, call the doctor.

7.. How will I learn the results of my test?

If a biopsy or polypectomy was performed, we will post the results to your CGA Patient Portal as soon as the physician has reviewed them. If you require instructions for online access of your Portal, the office staff can provide you with instructions. If you are unable to sign up for the Patient Portal, call the office 10 days after your procedure for the results.

8. What do I do if snow or dangerous weather makes traveling difficult?

We are committed to staying open at both our office and hospital locations unless severe weather prevents safe travel. Please call the office at 434-817-8484 for further instruction.

