

CT Virtual Colonoscopy



What is CT Virtual Colonoscopy?

CT colonography is used to screen for polyps and other lesions in the large intestine. CT colonography has a markedly lower risk of perforating the colon than conventional colonoscopy. Most screening patients who are examined do not have polyps, and can be spared having to undergo a full colonoscopy. Most screenings are currently not covered by insurance companies. The cost is \$1000 with a 20% discount if paid in full at the time of the exam.

CPT Codes

74263 Screening

74262 Diagnostic with contrast 74261 Diagnostic w/o contrast (most common)

Indications

Colon Cancer Screening, Failed Colonoscopy.

Medical necessity: inability to tolerate sedation, inability to discontinue anticoagulation therapy, or as indicated by their medical policies.

Contraindications

 Pregnancy

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

Colon prep will be mailed to your patient from Iowa Radiology.

What Happens During the Test?

Your patient will be asked to change into a gown and the technologist will obtain a medical history. The patient will lie on his left side during the exam. A very small, flexible tube will be passed two inches into the rectum to allow air to be gently pumped into the colon. The patient will then be asked to roll onto his back. Once the colon is full, the patient may experience abdominal discomfort. The technologist will take a series of pictures while the patient is positioned on his back and then asked to roll onto his stomach for the remainder.

After the Test

Your patient may resume normal activities following the CT colonoscopy. Any full or gassy feeling will absorb quickly.

The Results

A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within 1 business day.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr.Marvin Walker)

This manual is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Iowa Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders: CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.