



**Queensland  
Government**

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY**

**NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED**

### 1. What is a CT Colonoscopy?

Computed Tomography (CT) or 'CAT' scans are special x-ray scans that produce cross-sectional pictures of the body using x-rays and a computer.

The CT machine looks like a large doughnut with a narrow table in the middle. The table moves through the large circular hole in the centre of the scanner.

CT Colonoscopy uses CT scanning to look at the wall of your colon (large bowel).



### 2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?

Most people experience a feeling of fullness or mild discomfort during the procedure. Some people experience (temporary) abdominal cramping. If required, a muscle relaxing drug can be given to relieve discomfort. No anaesthetic is required for a CT Colonoscopy.

The CT machine is open at both ends so patients who are claustrophobic have little difficulty with this test.

### 3. Preparation for the procedure

The medical imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your procedure.

- A bowel preparation kit. The bowel contents must be completely clear for the procedure to be accurate and complete. Be sure to follow the directions carefully otherwise you may need to be rebooked at a later date.
- Please tell the staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

### 4. During the procedure

A small lubricated tube will gently be inserted a short way into your back passage in order to fill your bowel with air.

Once the bowel is filled with air, scans will be taken. Scans will be taken while you are lying on your back and also while you are lying on your stomach.

As the x-ray tube rotates around you, you will hear a whirring or humming noise and you will feel the table move slowly through the CT scanner.

You should remain as still as possible, as the slightest movement can blur the pictures.

You will be asked to hold your breath for up to 20 seconds.

The Radiographer will not be in the room during the procedure, but they will be able to see you and communicate with you through an intercom system.

### 5. After the procedure

The small tube will be removed. Please keep in mind that you will continue to pass some of the air for a short time after the procedure.

### 6. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

The risks and complications with this procedure can include but are not limited to the following.

#### Common risks and complications include:

- No known common risks.

#### Less common risks and complications include:

- The procedure may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

#### Rare risks and complications include:

- Injury to the bowel by the tube or by inflating the bowel with air. This may require other procedures and/or corrective surgery.
- Infection, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Bleeding from the bowel. This may require other procedures and/or corrective surgery.
- An increased lifetime cancer risk due to the exposure to x-rays.
- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.

### 7. What are the safety issues when you leave the hospital?

Go to your nearest Emergency Department or GP if you become unwell or have;

- pain, unrelieved by simple pain killers
- bleeding from the back passage (more than ½ cup)
- fever.

### Notes to talk to my doctor/ health practitioner about:

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