

**MGB GASTROENTEROLOGY**  
10 MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, MA 01062 (413) 586-8910  
FAX (855)583-3395

•DAVID A. BERKMAN, MD • JOSEPH P. TASSONI, MD • DAVID R. KALMAN, MD •  
• MICHAL GANZ, MD • VIKRAM BUDHRAJA, MD •  
•LAURIE NAUGHTON, PA-C • AMY KRAVITZ, PA-C • RACHEL CLAY, NP • JANET WILLEMAIN, APRN•

Dear Patient,

Your physician is scheduling you for an endoscopic procedure (endoscopy or colonoscopy). This is a diagnostic procedure done to screen for cancer or evaluate bleeding, abdominal pain, family history of cancer, colitis, colonic polyps, and other conditions.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

A colonoscopy is a medical procedure that allows a doctor to examine the inside of the colon and rectum using a flexible tube called a colonoscope. The colonoscope has a light and a small camera on one end, and is inserted through the anus and into the colon.

Preparing for a colonoscopy is important because it helps ensure that your large intestine is clean and clear so that your doctor can see what they need to during the procedure. If your colon is not clean enough, your doctor might not be able to see polyps or other irregularities, and they might need to reschedule your colonoscopy. The medications you are going to take are going to loosen your stools to the point of having liquid diarrhea for several hours. Over the course of drinking this medication, and for the 4-6 hours after, you should plan to be near a bathroom as you will need to go frequently – even as often as every 5-10 minutes.

Some people prefer to take the afternoon off from work the day before the procedure to prep. We recommend taking the day of the colonoscopy off work. It is advisable to find help with childcare for this time if applicable.

You will be up in the night for the second portion of the liquid prep if you are scheduled early in the morning, so you will need to be near a bathroom for several hours and may not be able to sleep after this point.

After the colonoscopy procedure is finished, you should anticipate being tired and catching up on sleep and therefore should not plan to work this day. It is advisable to find childcare for this time as well. After anesthesia from this procedure, you will not be able to drive the rest of the day.

This is a very fast, safe and easy procedure, which allows a good examination in the effort to evaluate symptoms, prevent and detect cancer. These procedures require intravenous medications for sedation and for control of mild pain. Complications from the sedation and procedure itself are rare. Complications include but are not limited to allergic reactions, heart or lung complication, and bleeding. These are generally reversible in the setting of care. There is also a risk of perforation (tear) and surgery. The risk of this complication in studies varies from one in 1,000 to one in 10,000. The risk of injury to non-digestive organs and body parts is low but not zero. The vast majority of patients feel completely normal and return to full function the following day. However, response to medical intervention is always variable and in a small percentage of individuals, recovery time is prolonged due to symptoms including but not limited to pain, altered bowel habits, fatigue, or lightheadedness. Because of the remote possibility of these complications, you will be asked to sign a consent form at the time of the procedure.

In agreeing to the procedure, you acknowledge that you are also responsible for any medical costs or missed work that may ensue from the procedure. If at any time you have questions, please call the office. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your care.

Sincerely,

MGB Gastroenterology