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COLONOSCOPY

Screening for Colorectal Polyps and Cancer:

Your doctor likely detected a suspicious growth during a test called a colonoscopy. You may have been tested because you had symptoms such as rectal bleeding or a change in bowel habits. Or your colon might have been checked as part of a routine screening for cancer. You may also have certain other tests. These give your doctor more information and help plan your surgery



POSSIBLE RISKS AND Complications of the Colonoscopy:

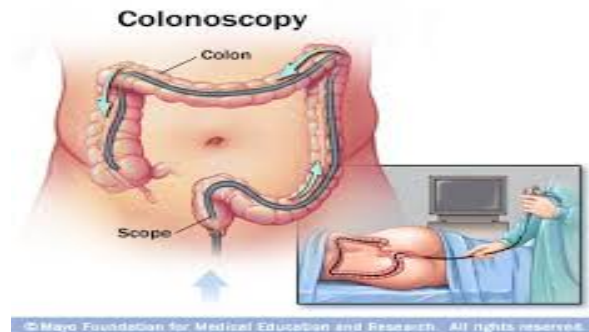
- Bleeding
- A puncture or tear in upper GI tract
- Risk of anesthesia

Signature

Date

Colonoscopy:

Colonoscopy is the best test doctors have for finding colorectal polyps and cancer. The test is usually done in the hospital on out patient basis. The day before the test, you do a "bowel prep" to clean out your colon. Right before the test, you're given medication to make you sleepy. The doctor then gently inserts a long, flexible, lighted tube called a colonoscope into your rectum. The scope is guided slowly so the doctor can view the entire colon.



What Colonoscopy May Find?

- **Polyps** found on the wall of the colon or rectum are removed via the colonoscope. They are then sent to a lab to be tested. If a polyp can't be removed during colonoscopy (due to shape, location, or size of the polyp) it must be removed with surgery. In this case, a tissue sample (biopsy) from the surface of a polyp may be taken during colonoscopy. This sample is checked in a lab for cancer cells. However, biopsy of a polyp doesn't always detect cancer, even if it is present. Whether or not a polyp is cancerous is often determined after the polyp has been removed during surgery.
- **Cancer:** The doctor may find a growth that is obviously cancer. This growth must be removed with surgery.