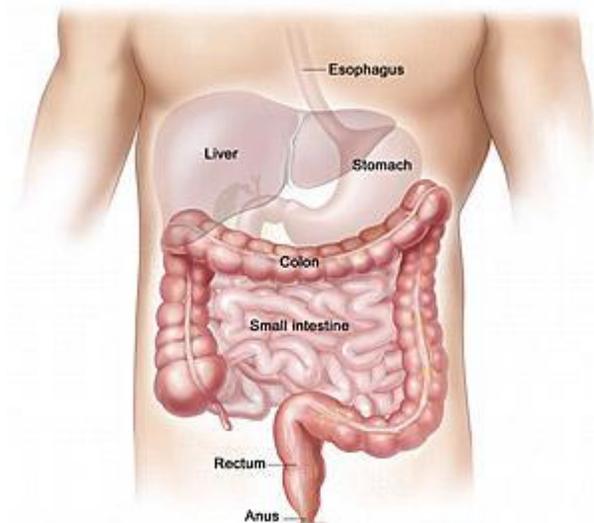


Colonoscopy

A colonoscopy is an examination of your child's colon or large bowel. It is done in the operating theatre under general anaesthetic, so your child will be asleep. A thin flexible tube with a light is inserted into your child's bottom and passed on into the large intestine. Biopsies are usually taken; these are tiny samples of tissue sent to the laboratory for microscopic analysis.



Preparation

It is essential that the bowel is empty to enable easy passage of the scope and clear visibility of the lining of the bowel. Your child should begin low residue diet on Saturday (sheet enclosed) and clear fluids only on Sunday i.e. clear soups, jelly, 7up, cordial, no dairy.

Special medicines are also needed to clear out the bowel - In CHI at Crumlin, we use a combination of tablets and medicine in sachets.

Children 5 years and under

- 1 Dulcolax tablet Saturday and Sunday morning
- Movicol sachet as per own prescription

Children 6 years and older

- 2 Dulcolax tablets
- Movicol sachets as per prescription

Following admission to the Medical Day Ward, the nursing staff will give your child a phosphate enema. This completes the clear out of the bowel. It is somewhat unpleasant for the child but not painful.

Procedure

Your child needs to fast from 12 midnight. Clear fluid such as water, sprite or 7up can be given up to 2 hours prior to anaesthetic. You need to check into Admissions at 8am before being sent to the Medical Day Ward. There, you will be seen by both nursing and medical staff and the procedure explained to you prior to consent. The procedure is usually not undertaken until at least an hour after the administration of a phosphate enema.

Parents are encouraged to stay with their child until he/she is asleep. The total length of time for the procedure varies. From going to sleep to waking after the procedure can take up to an hour and a half. When awake your child will be returned to the Day Ward.

After the procedure

On return to the ward, allow your child to sleep or rest. Children are usually able to eat and drink once they have fully woken from the anaesthetic. Please check with your nurse before you allow them to eat or drink. Children are usually fit for discharge within 1-2 hours. The doctor may speak to you and your child before you go home to explain findings and organise follow up if necessary.

When you are at home

Children rarely have complications following colonoscopy. However if your child experiences abdominal pain, vomiting or passing blood from the rectum following discharge the GI team should be contacted or bring your child to the Emergency Department.

If your child complains of discomfort when at home, you may give your child pain relief (for example: paracetamol). Pain medication will have been administered during the procedure, so check with your nurse prior to discharge about the correct time to give the next dose at home. As with all medication, administer according to the manufacturer's instructions and ensure they are stored out of the reach of children.

If you are unable to attend your appointment for this procedure, please inform the GI unit 01-4282527 as soon as possible.

If further advice or information is needed, please contact a Gastroenterology nurse specialist: Phone: 01 409 6100 / Bleep: 8876 or 8678