

VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY VS. TRADITIONAL COLONOSCOPY

Virtual Colonoscopy

Traditional Colonoscopy

Diagnostic Power

Sees 100% of the interior and exterior colon, including behind bowel folds where polyps can hide. Reaches the cecum universally.	Typically only sees about 80% of the interior of the colon, as total “reverse navigation” is not possible. Reaches the cecum about 95% of the time.
--	---

Complications

No risk of perforation or serious complications.	Possibility of penetration or perforation leading to serious complications.
--	---

Anesthesia

No anesthesia necessary.	Must receive anesthesia with associated risks and need for monitoring.
--------------------------	--

Recovery

Can resume normal activity immediately.	Must recover from the anesthesia and cannot drive following the procedure. Weakness from dehydration caused by complete bowel clean out.
---	--

Preparation

More gentle laxative bowel preparations and shorter special diet because computer can electronically “cleanse” residue stool. Does not require complete dehydration.	Bowel must be vigorously cleansed typically involving large volumes of unpalatable solutions. Longer special diet to allow proper viewing. Dehydration is common.
--	---

Time Required

20 minutes (images are acquired in 30 seconds on the back and 30 seconds on the belly).	Half day at a surgical center/clinic-bed rest to follow from weakness due to dehydration.
---	---

Procedure

A miniature rubber tube is inserted only 1 inch deep rectally. This device allows for CO ² gas to expand the colon for easy viewing with minimal discomfort.	Telescope tube of 1.5 inches in diameter travels 5 feet into large intestine.
---	---

Cost

\$750	\$2,200 – \$3,000
-------	-------------------