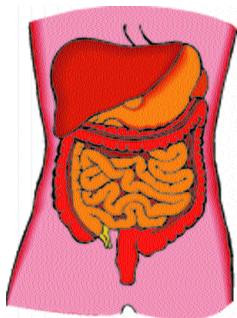


Colonoscopy



What is a Colonoscopy?

Your child's doctor has recommended a Colonoscopy. This is a test in which the doctor looks directly into the last part of the intestines with a narrow bendable tube mounted with a camera and a light to help find out why children have diarrhea, bleeding

and stomach pain. The doctor may also take very small tissue samples, the size of a pinhead.

Reasons why children may need a Colonoscopy?

There are many reasons why children may need a colonoscopy including:

- Blood in the poop
- Diarrhea
- Belly pain
- Bottom pain

What happens before and after the test?

Before the test, the child is given oral medicines to flush out all the stool. Your child will also need to drink lots of clear fluids. It is important that during this time he/she does not eat any food. On the morning of the test, your child is not supposed to eat or drink anything as this can cause problems with the sleep medication administered before the test. Your nurse or doctor will tell you when your child should stop eating and start the medicines.

After the test, your doctor may have pictures of your child's intestine to show you. At the same time, he/she can tell you if there are any medicines your child should take. Once they are drinking well, your child can start eating again and go home. A few kids feel sick after the test and may be watched a little longer until they feel better.

After the test, if your child has any of these symptoms, call their doctor:

- Stomach pain for more than an hour. Most kids feel fine after the test.
- Throwing up several times. To make sure this is not a problem, have them drink small amounts of beverages like Sprite, ginger ale and popsicles.
- Bleeding. Passing small amounts of blood (less than a spoonful) may be normal for 1-2 days, but if it is more than that or it continues let their doctor know.
- Persistent fevers.

For more information or to locate a pediatric gastroenterologist in your area please visit our website at: www.naspghan.org

IMPORTANT REMINDER: This information from the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) is intended only to provide general information and not as a definitive basis for diagnosis or treatment in any particular case. It is very important that you consult your doctor about your specific condition.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS:

NASPGHAN
NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY,
HEPATOLOGY AND NUTRITION

APGNN
THE ASSOCIATION OF PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY
AND NUTRITION NURSES

NASPGHAN • PO Box 6 • Flourtown, PA 19031
215-233-0808 • Fax: 215-233-3918