

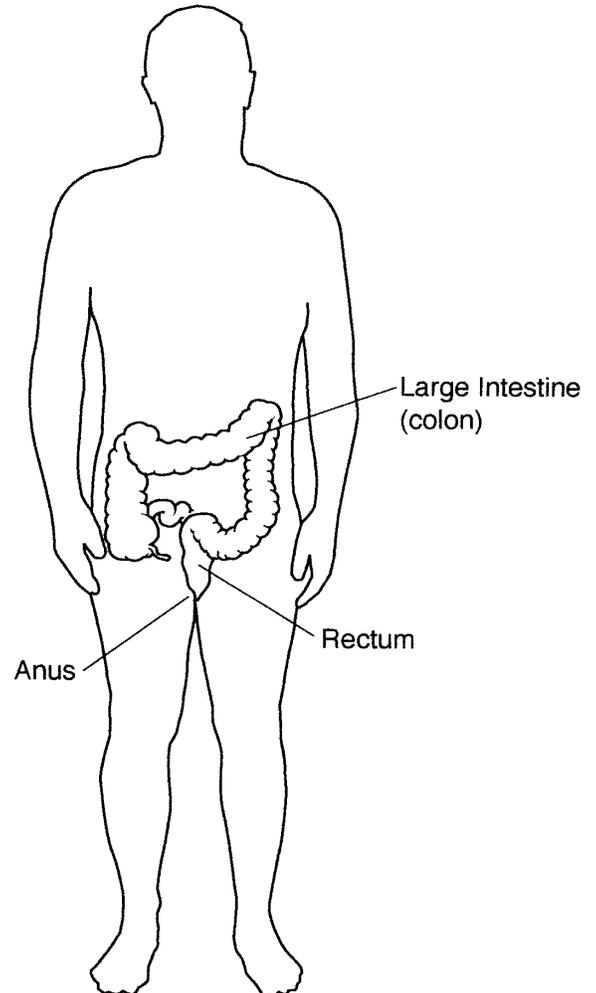
# Sigmoidoscopy

Sigmoidoscopy is a test used to check the rectum and lower part of the large intestine called the sigmoid colon. Your doctor will use a lighted, flexible tube called an endoscope to look at the inside of your rectum and colon. You will need two Fleet enemas to empty your colon before the test.

**Arrive on time for your test.** Plan a stay of 1 to 2 hours to allow time to get you ready for the test and time to recover after the test. The test itself takes about 15 minutes and no medicine or sedation is usually needed.

## To Prepare

- You will need to buy two Fleet enemas from a pharmacy.
- Ask your doctor if you should take your medicines the morning of the test.



## Three hours before your test

- **Do not** eat solid foods or drink milk products.
- **Do not** drink red or purple liquids. Drink clear liquids only until after the test, such as:
  - ▶ Water
  - ▶ Clear broth or bouillon
  - ▶ Clear fruit juices without pulp such as apple, white grape and lemonade
  - ▶ Clear drinks such as lemon-lime soda, Kool-aid or sport drinks

- ▶ Decaffeinated coffee or tea without milk or nondairy creamer
- ▶ Jello or popsicles
- **Start the first enema.**
  1. Shake the bottle.
  2. Remove the orange plastic cover on the tip of the bottle.
  3. Lie on your left side with your right knee bent and your arms relaxed.
  4. Gently put the bottle tip into your rectum. Push as if you are having a bowel movement. This will relax the muscles so the tip goes in easier.
  5. Stop pushing and take slow, deep breaths.
  6. Squeeze the bottle until most of the liquid is in your rectum.
  7. Remove the tip from your rectum. Lie on your left side and squeeze your buttocks to hold the liquid in your rectum.
  8. You will have a strong urge to have a bowel movement in about 5 minutes. Hold the liquid in as long as you can.
  9. Use the toilet.
  10. Wash your hands with soap and water.
- **Start the second enema 1 hour later.**

## **During the Test**

- The staff will ask you about:
  - ▶ Your medicines including prescription and over the counter medicines, herbals, vitamins and other supplements
  - ▶ Allergies to medicines, foods or latex
  - ▶ Other health conditions and past surgeries
- If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, tell the staff.
- You will wear a hospital gown and lie on your left side.
- You may be asked to pull your knees up towards your chest.

- The tube is gently put into your rectum and slowly moved into your colon. You may feel an urge to move your bowels.
- Breathe deeply and slowly through your mouth to help you relax.
- Small puffs of air are used to expand the colon so that the rectum and sigmoid colon can be seen.
- After the rectum and colon are checked, the tube is carefully removed.

### **After the Test**

- You may feel some pressure or cramping for a short time from the air that was put into your colon. This feeling will go away as you pass gas or air that was put in your colon during the test.
- You will be checked by a nurse for a short time after your test and your blood pressure will be recorded. You will be given discharge instructions before you leave.
- You can return to your normal diet and activities.
- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

**If you have any problems after the test such as bleeding or pain, call your doctor right away.**

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**