

What to Expect (Virtual Colonoscopy)

BGC Imaging Center

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Prior to the Exam

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment. You will be changing into a clinical gown for the procedure. This procedure does not have any form of sedation associated with it. Preparation is extremely important, follow instructions completely with no variance, any stool can reduce the clarity of the images.

During the exam

The exam will begin by lying on your side on the exam table, usually with your knees drawn toward your chest. The Technician will place a small tube (catheter) inside your rectum to fill your colon with carbon dioxide. The gas, which helps create clear images, may cause a feeling of pressure in your abdomen.

For the next part of the exam, you will be asked to lie on your back. The exam table will be moved into the CT machine, and your body will be scanned. Then you'll turn over to lie on your abdomen or your side, and your body will be scanned again. You may be asked to turn and hold various other positions, as well as hold your breath at times.

A virtual colonoscopy typically takes about 10 minutes once scanning begins, but the entire exam can take up to an hour due to the complexity of your colon or the compliance of the patient.

During the procedure it is important to understand that while you may be uncomfortable due to the abdominal pressure your patience and cooperation is a key factor in accomplishing a thorough exam.

After the exam

After the exam, most of the gas will be removed from your colon through the catheter in your rectum. You may feel bloated or pass gas for a few hours after the exam as you clear the remaining air or gas from your colon. Walking may help relieve any discomfort, and you can return to your usual diet and activities right away. Consult your doctor if your signs and symptoms don't improve on their own.

Appointment
Date/Time: _____