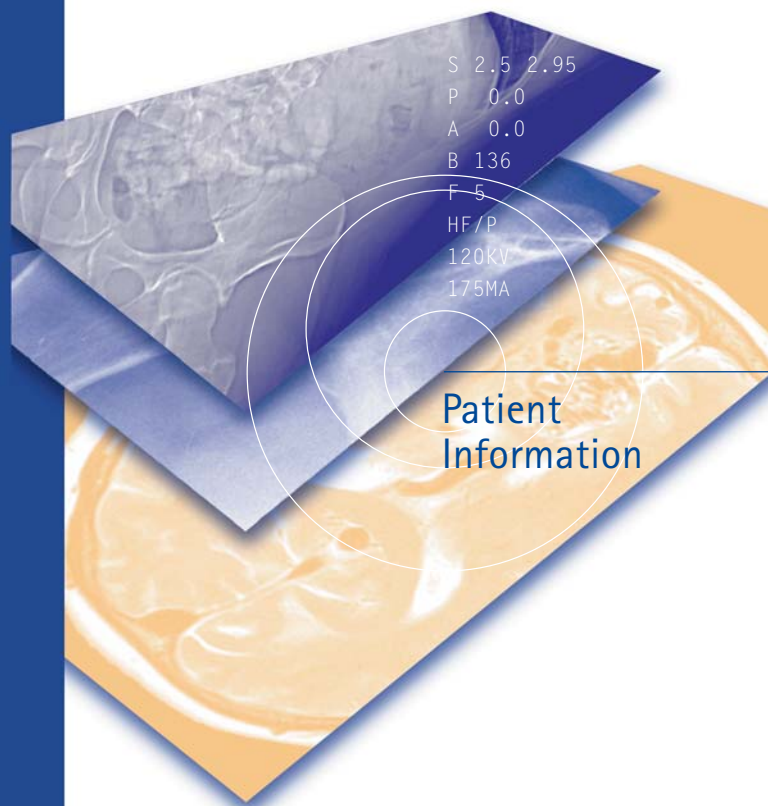


Please bring any previous x-rays with you on the day of your examination

# Virtual Colonography



Your next appointment:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## What is virtual colonography?

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Virtual colonography is a technique which creates a 3D model of the colon using a spiral CT (Computed Tomography) scanner. Using sophisticated computer graphics, the model is stored on a computer disc and the colon is examined throughout its length without having to use an endoscopic instrument.

## Preparation

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As with any examination of the colon, a clean, well-prepared bowel is important for accuracy and this is no different with virtual colonoscopy. For this reason, a full preparation is required. Separate instructions will be issued when you make your appointment.

## Procedure

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No anaesthetic is required and this is an out-patient procedure.

An injection of a muscle relaxant is made into an upper arm vein in order to relax the bowel for the duration of the examination. A small tube is inserted into the rectum. The colon is then distended with gas and two series of images are obtained.

The data from these images is transferred to the computer disc for computer processing at a later stage. As much air as possible is evacuated from the colon and you will then be able to leave. There are no special precautions, although it is advisable not to drive a motor vehicle following the procedure. The information will be constructed and a report issued the following day, with the data being available on a CD-ROM for your doctor to review.

## Following the procedure

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There is an increased amount of gas within the colon which, after the relaxing agent ceases to have effect, will be expelled in a normal way.

## How long will the procedure take?

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The procedure normally takes less than 1 hour.