

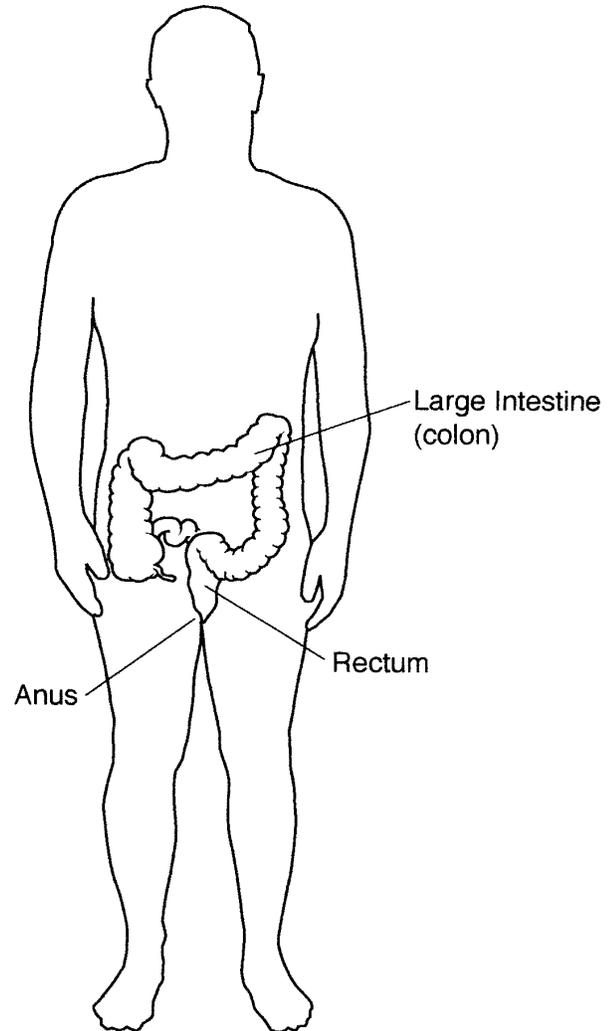
# Sigmoidoscopy

Sigmoidoscopy is a test of the rectum and lower part of the large intestine called the sigmoid colon. Your doctor will use a tube to look at the inside of your rectum and colon. You will need to empty your colon before the test.

**Arrive on time for your test.** Plan on being here for about 1 hour. The test takes about 15 minutes.

## To Prepare

- Ask your doctor if you should take your medicine the morning of the test.
- Before the test, tell the staff:
  - About any medicines you are taking. Include all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbs you use.
  - If you have any allergies.
  - About your health history and any surgeries you have had.
  - If you may be pregnant.
- Buy two Fleets enemas at your local pharmacy.



## Three hours before your test

- **Do not** eat solid foods or drink milk products. Drink clear liquids until after the test.
- Clear liquids to drink:

- 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.
- 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.
- **Do the second enema 1 hour later.**

### **During the Test**

- 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 slowly put into your rectum and into your colon. You may feel an urge to move your bowels.

- Breathe deeply and slowly through your mouth to help you relax.
- When the tube is in place, air may be put into the colon through the tube.
- The colon is checked and then the tube is removed.

### **After the Test**

- You can return to your normal diet and activities.
- It is normal to see a few spots of blood on toilet paper.
- You may pass some gas from the air put in your colon during the test.
- Call your doctor if the bloating continues longer than 1-2 days.
- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

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