Lower Endoscopy (Colonoscopy)

What is it?

Lower Endoscopy or Colonoscopy uses a flexible camera to evaluate the colon also called the large bowel. This procedure is typically performed with medication to ensure you are drowsy and comfortable during the procedure. Most patients do not recall the procedure even being performed.

Why is the procedure performed?

There is a wide range of reason to perform a lower endoscopy. They include lower abdominal pain, anemia, blood in your stool, changes in your bowel habits, screening for colon cancer, and unexplained weight loss.

It is recommended that all individuals receive colon cancer screening at age 50 with a colonoscopy. Screening at age 50 allow for the early diagnosis of colon cancer or even prevention of colon cancer.

What do they do if they find an abnormality during my procedure?

There are a lot of procedures to deal with abnormalities that are found during an colonoscopy. Your doctor may take biopsies to evaluate a mass, or dilate a narrowing in your GI tract. Each patient is unique.

How do I prepare for a Lower Endoscopy?

You will not be able to eat or drink for 6-8 hours prior to your procedure. You will take a bowel preparation prior to your procedure to clean the stool out of your colon.

You should tell you doctor if you are allergic to any medications or anesthetics, which medications you are taking, if you are on any blood thinners like Coumadin or Plavix, if you have bleeding problems, if you have heart or lung problems, or treatment of the esophagus, stomach or upper intestinal track with radiation. You should also let your doctor know if you are or think you are pregnant.

What happens after my Lower Endoscopy?

You will stay in a recovery room for about 30 minutes for observation. You may feel some cramping or a sensation of having gas, but this usually passes quickly. You will need to have a responsible adult drive you home, as it is unsafe to drive or operate machinery for about 8 hours after the procedure (due to the sedative medication given). You can resume your normal diet.

What are the Risks?
The risks are very low for Colonoscopy. There is a risk of perforation or a hole in your Colon. There is a low risk of bleeding. Colonoscopy is a safe procedure performed frequently at The Ohio State University Medical Center.

This information is not intended to replace a visit with your physician. To schedule an appointment with one of our surgeons, please call 614-293-3230.