

Endoscopy Unit

FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY (with Hospital Enema)

THIS PROCEDURE REQUIRES YOU TO MAKE DIETARY CHANGES, TAKE LAXATIVES, FAST AND STOP SOME MEDICATIONS UP TO 7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE.

This document contains essential information about your upcoming investigation and should be read IMMEDIATELY.

Please contact the nurse helpline if you:

- **May be pregnant**
- **Have a pacemaker**
- **Have an implantable cardiac defibrillator**
- **Take Warfarin, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Edoxaban or Dabigatran**
- **Have a stoma**

Endoscopy Nurses: 020 8934 6614 (2 P.M. – 4 P.M. ONLY)

**Endoscopy Bookings Team (To Reschedule or Cancel Appointments):
020 8934 2099 option 2 (9AM – 5PM ONLY)**

We strongly advise to read carefully this information leaflet BEFORE calling the advice line. The answers to your questions may already be contained here.

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FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY

Please read this information carefully, including the enclosed information for pain relief and bowel preparation for the test.

We will be happy to answer any questions when you come for your appointment, if you wish to discuss any aspect of your clinical care in private then please ask.

We always endeavour to see you close to your appointment time to minimise any delays. However, this may not always be possible. We will keep you informed of any significant delays. **Please allow up to 3 hours in total for your visit.**

The procedure will be performed by or under the supervision of a Consultant/Nurse Endoscopist.

WHAT IS FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY?

It is a procedure to look at the inside of the left, lower part of your colon (large bowel) using a flexible telescope. (See Figure 1) It is useful for diagnosing a range of gastrointestinal conditions.

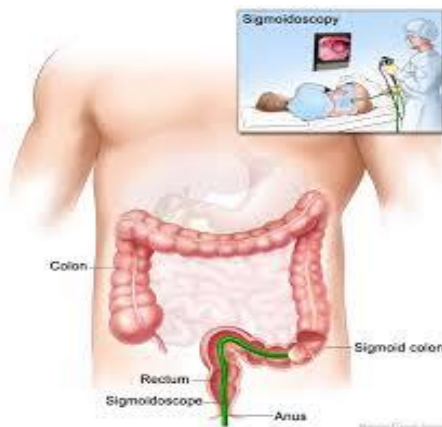


Figure 1

ALTERNATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

It is possible using radiology e.g., barium studies or CT scans, however these can be less sensitive and have the disadvantage that biopsies cannot be taken for further investigation. If an abnormality is found using radiology investigations a subsequent investigation with flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy may be required.

RISKS

This procedure is generally safe; however, there are some risks with this test. These include:

- The sigmoidoscope may cause damage known as a perforation (a tear/hole in the lining of the gullet/stomach/duodenum or colon). The risk of this is approximately 1:5000 procedures for flexible sigmoidoscopy. This is a serious complication and typically requires an operation to repair, and may involve forming a stoma (your bowel opening onto your skin)
- The risk of perforation is 1:500 when a polyp is removed.
- Bleeding may occur following a polyp removal. Occasionally this can be excessive and require further endoscopy, surgery, and or transfusion 1:100 for large polyps 1cm and bigger.
- There is a 10% risk that a polyp or other abnormality may be missed.
- Occasionally it is not possible to complete the examination.

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PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

PREPARING FOR YOUR FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY

IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY WHEN PREPARING FOR YOUR PROCEDURE.

- **STOP ORAL Iron (Ferrous) tablets 7 days BEFORE** your procedure.
- **STOP stool bulking (e.g., Fybogel) or anti diarrhoea (e.g., Codeine, Imodium) medication 7 days BEFORE** your procedure.

Warfarin

- If you take **WARFARIN**, this may need to be stopped before your procedure. You will be referred to the anti-coagulation clinic at Kingston Hospital, if required. They will make the necessary arrangements for you. If you have not heard from them 7 days before your Flexible Sigmoidoscopy is due, please contact them on **020 8934 2030/ 2041/ 3689/ 2321 option 5**.
- Please note that interrupting your anticoagulation therapy may carry a slightly increased risk of a clot forming. (You can discuss with the anticoagulation nurse on **020 8934 3576**). **DO NOT STOP WARFARIN WITHOUT MEDICAL ADVICE.**
- If you take Warfarin, we will check your **INR** with a finger prick test before your procedure.
- If you take any OTHER blood thinning medication such as Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Edoxaban or Dabigatran, please contact the endoscopy unit 020 8934 6614, **IF** you have not been given advice regarding this. It is very important that you **do not stop these medications without medical advice.**

Diabetes

- If you have diabetes, it may be necessary to adjust your treatment whilst preparing for this test. Please discuss this with your GP or Diabetes Nurse specialist at least 3 days before your test. **Please see separate sheet for Diabetes leaflet.**
- If you take **Insulin**, you should have an early morning appointment, **IF NOT SO**, please contact the booking team to re-schedule. Adjust your Insulin dosage accordingly before your procedure. **Please see separate sheet for Diabetes leaflet.**

FASTING PREPARATION

GENERAL RULE BEFORE YOUR FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY APPOINTMENT TIME:

Six (6) Hours before: *You may have a light meal or food.*

Four (4) Hours before: *Stop all fluids, only a Glass of water is allowed.*

Two (2) Hours before: *Only tiny sips of water are allowed.*

YOU MUST NOT HAVE ANYTHING BY MOUTH BEYOND 2 HOURS BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME!

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Prescribed Medication

- Please take your **OTHER** regular medications with a sip of water (up to 2 hours before your test), unless advised not to.
- **BRING A LIST OF YOUR CURRENT MEDICATIONS.** If you use asthma inhalers or angina sprays, it is important to bring these with you.

On arrival at the hospital

- Your details, blood pressure and pulse will be checked by your nurse.
- You will be asked to remove jewellery, spectacles, contact lenses or dentures just before the investigation - **ideally leave jewellery and valuables at home.**
- You will change into a hospital gown and offered dignity shorts to wear.
- The rectum and lower bowel must be empty for the procedure to be complete and accurate.

You will be given a **HOSPITAL (PHOSPHATE) ENEMA** before the procedure.

An enema is a liquid solution that is given into the rectum to wash out the bowel. It may take 30minutes to one (1) hour for the enema to be fully effective.

- There will be access to a toilet in the unit whilst you are waiting for the procedure.
- The Endoscopist will see you before your investigation to discuss and sign the legal consent form.

During the procedure

- Your blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen levels are monitored.
- You will lay on your left side for the procedure.
- The Endoscopist will examine your rectum using their finger and then insert the lubricated flexible sigmoidoscope into your back passage and pass it around the lower bowel.
- There are some bends in the bowel and passing the scope through these may be uncomfortable and cause some pain for a short period of time.
- Air passed into the bowel may cause bloating, abdominal cramping, and pressure.
- Passing some wind is normal. Do not feel embarrassed as the staff will expect this to happen.
- A sensation of needing to go to the toilet is normal even when the bowel is empty. Remaining fluid in the bowel will be removed by the flexible sigmoidoscope.
- Biopsies (painless, small samples of tissue) may be taken for the laboratory for further tests.
- Photographs are taken and kept on your hospital records.
- Polyps (projections of tissue, a bit like warts) may be removed if found.

Will I need pain relief?

Most patients undergo this procedure without any medications.

Occasionally patients may find the procedure painful and in this instance, we can give **Entonox** often called 'gas and air' to help minimise discomfort and pain.

Entonox or an Intravenous Sedation. A nurse is with you during the procedure. If you find the discomfort/pain unmanageable, the nurse can help you discuss this with the Endoscopist.

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THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT:

Intravenous Sedation and Pain Killer:

YOU MUST HAVE A RESPONSIBLE ADULT TO TAKE YOU HOME AND STAY WITH YOU FOR 24 HOURS FOLLOWING INTRAVENOUS SEDATION.

A. The **SEDATION** (Midazolam) will be given via a cannula in your vein. The sedative makes you feel relaxed and a little drowsy. However, it **DOES NOT 'PUT YOU TO SLEEP.'** The Endoscopist measures the dose of the medications according to your response and comfort but is guided by national guidance as to how much of these drugs you may safely have. **The Endoscopist CANNOT 'KNOCK YOU OUT.'**

Side effects: Intravenous sedation and pain killers occasionally cause problems with breathing, heart rate and blood pressure. Normally short lived and can be managed by the endoscopy unit staff. Rarely, these complications are more serious, and may need more intensive management.

Following intravenous sedation and pain killer:

- You must arrange to have a responsible adult to take you home and stay with you for 24 hours.
- Your escort must be **READILY AVAILABLE** upon us contacting them, please arrange for them to be close to the hospital whilst you are having your procedure, or within 30 minutes travel time. **Nurses on the ward will help you contact your escort as soon as you are back in the recovery area.**
- You may not be allowed to travel by public transport or travel alone in a taxi.
- For 24 hours after the sedative, you CAN NOT drive, return to work, operate machinery (including cookers and kettles), drink alcohol, sign legal documents
- Allow 24 hours to rest before resuming normal activities or work. You CAN NOT be responsible for small children.

B. **ENTONOX** also known as 'laughing gas' or 'gas and air' is used for short term pain relief if required during your flexible sigmoidoscopy as it has proved to be safe and effective with minimal side-effects. Entonox also provides a mild sedative effect. Entonox is inhaled through a disposable mouthpiece, attached to a handset and tubing. The mouthpiece is held between the teeth, and the lips closed around it to ensure a good seal. The patient has complete control over how often and how much they use, although it is generally recommended that it is used continuously throughout the procedure. If you wish to use Entonox, a nurse will advise you how to use it before the procedure starts. If you are not shown, please ask.

Side effects: Entonox may make you feel drowsy and a little light-headed. Other less common side effects include dizziness, nausea, tingling fingers, and a dry mouth.

Entonox is NOT suitable if: you have or recently had an ear infection or operation, have had eye surgery with gas bubble insertion, have been scuba diving within the last 2 days, have emphysema, COPD or other chronic breathing problems or have recently had a pneumothorax.

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Following Entonox:

- You will be allowed to go home within 30-60 minutes.
- If you are driving home, you will need to wait up to an hour before driving.
- You may prefer to arrange for a friend or relative to escort you home, but it is not essential.

GENERALLY AFTER FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY

- If no Entonox used, you can usually leave the unit within 10-15 minutes of your procedure. You just need to wait for the copy of your report and discharge instructions. A nurse will briefly explain these reports/instructions to you.
- If you have used Entonox, you will need to rest on the ward/recovery area for 30-60 minutes.
- Crampy wind pains/bloating are normal and usually settle quickly, passing wind will help. Moving around and using the toilet will help this to settle.
- A small amount of blood from your back passage if biopsies were taken or a polyp removed is normal.
- You may prefer to arrange for a friend or relative to escort you home, but it is not a requirement.
- A copy of the report will be sent to your GP and your hospital Consultant (if you have one), biopsy results will be sent at a later date. Biopsy results can take up to 6 weeks to be processed.
- Please note: it is not possible for patients to access biopsy results from the hospital/endoscopy unit.

CONSENT

This procedure requires your formal consent. This booklet has been written to enable you to make an informed decision about agreeing to the procedure.

The consent form is a legal document, therefore please read this booklet carefully.

If having read this information you do not wish to go ahead with the procedure, or want to consider alternative methods of investigation, **please discuss this with your GP or hospital doctor** as soon as possible **BEFORE THE DATE OF YOUR APPOINTMENT.**

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Useful Contact Numbers:

Endoscopy Nurses: 020 8934 6614 (2PM – 4PM ONLY)

Call for questions relating to your procedure/medication/preparation for your test, which is not included in this leaflet and needs to be answered before you attend your appointment.

Make sure you have your hospital number ready before calling together with your full name and date of birth. Have a pen and paper ready too in case you need to write down information.

To reschedule or cancel appointments.

Your appointment is valuable, if you need to reschedule your appointment, please give as much notice as possible, preferably a minimum of 10 days' notice; this allows us to offer this appointment to another patient.

Please note the booking team cannot answer clinical questions relating to your procedure.

Please Call Endoscopy Bookings Team: **020 8934 2099 option 2 (9AM to 5PM)** or Email khn-tr.endoscopy@nhs.net

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