

Sigmoidoscopy Procedure Information/Questions

What is a Flexible Sigmoidoscopy?

A flexible sigmoidoscopy is a procedure that allows the physician to see inside of the large intestine from the rectum through the last part of the colon (the sigmoid colon). This procedure is performed for many reasons, including when patients present with rectal bleeding, diarrhea, constipation, or abdominal pain. It is also conducted to help diagnose colon cancer in the rectum and sigmoid colon.

What happens during the procedure?

After checking in at the front desk you will be escorted by our medical assistant to a changing room. You will leave your belongings in a locked cabinet and then will be brought into the examining room. You will meet with the Gastroenterologist who will discuss the test and answer any questions you may have and obtain your signature on a consent form. You will be asked to turn onto your left side. The physician will insert a short, flexible lighted tube into your rectum and slowly advance it into your colon. The tube is called a sigmoidoscope. The scope will be passed as far into the colon as it can be based on the preparation and the patient's tolerance of the procedure. If pathology is identified, it may be biopsied or possibly removed at that time. Once the exam is complete, you will be transferred to the recovery area. The doctor will then meet with you and discuss the results.

Where is the procedure done?

Procedures are conducted in our state of the art Gastroenterology Suite located at our offices.

How long is the procedure?

The procedure typically lasts 5-10 minutes.

Will the procedure hurt?

Some patients note slight cramping during the procedure.

Are there any risks?

Risks associated with this procedure are minimal but include bleeding and a rare possibility of perforation.

Insurance Issues

If you are covered under a managed care plan, you may need a referral or authorization from your primary care physician. If required, please make sure this is obtained prior to your procedure and furnished to our office. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of the procedure.

For more information on flexible sigmoidoscopies, please go to:

<http://www.webmd.com/colorectal-cancer/sigmoidoscopy>