

## Coming for a minimal preparation CT colon

### Information for patients

#### What is a minimal preparation CT colon?

A Minimal Preparation Computed Tomography (CT) colon is an x-ray examination of your large bowel or colon. A CT scanner is used to create images of the inside of your colon.

The images allow radiologists to look for abnormalities such as large polyps and cancer. Polyps are usually benign growths and removing these reduces your risk of bowel cancer.



#### What preparation do I have to do?

To prepare for your scan, you can continue to eat and drink as normal and to take any medication as required.

You have been given four containers, each with 6mls of liquid Gastrografin. It is a dye used to clearly show the area that the radiologist is investigating.



Gastrografin contains iodine. If you are allergic to iodine or have any other questions regarding this appointment, please phone the WGH Radiology Department (CT reception 0131 537 2054).

**Two days before** your appointment take the first dose of Gastrografin at 7pm. Mix the contents of one container with 500mls or 2 standard mugs of water and drink over one hour. Make sure you drink the entire dose.

You should remain within easy reach of a toilet as you may experience frequent, loose bowel motions and diarrhoea within a few hours of the first dose of Gastrografin.

**The day before** your appointment take the second dose of Gastrografin in the morning at 7am and the third dose in the evening at 7pm. Prepare each dose as before and drink over one hour.

**On the day of** your appointment take the fourth dose of Gastrografin at 7am preparing as before and drinking over one hour.

You must take all four doses of Gastrografin before your appointment.

#### What do I do on the day of my appointment?

On the day of your appointment, check in at reception. The staff will give you instructions about where to go.

Before the scan, you will have a small needle or cannula inserted into your arm. This allows the radiographer to inject dye into the vein during the scan so we can see your organs better.



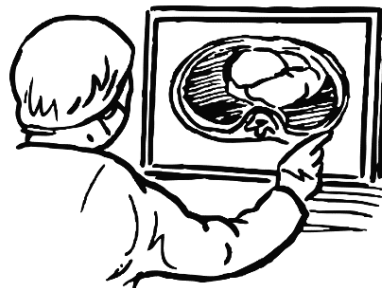
You may be asked to change into a gown before lying on your back on the CT scan table. The scan is done by the radiographer and usually takes less than 10 minutes.

Afterwards, the cannula will be removed. You will be observed for a short period, and then you can go home.

## **When will I get my results?**

You will not get your result at the time of the scan as there will be hundreds of images for the radiologist to review.

Once the image has been analysed, the radiologist will send a report to the clinician who asked for your scan. The clinician will contact you to discuss the results.



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## **Keeping your appointment**

If you cannot keep your appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please change it by phoning the number on your appointment letter.

Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.

A video “Coming for a minimal preparation CT colon” is available to view on the NHS Lothian website.

Use the link or scan the QR code below using the camera on your phone:

<https://services.nhsllothian.scot/radiology/coming-for-a-scan/>

