

## CT Colonography

### **Purpose of the examination:**

CT Colonography (Virtual Colonoscopy) is generally performed as a screening exam for the detection of colon polyps, felt to be a precursor to many colon tumors. Early detection and treatment may prevent the formation of colon cancer. Current guidelines recommend all adults over 50 years of age (and some younger individuals, if indicated by family or personal history) undergo regular screening evaluation.

### **How to prepare:**

Like all current colon examinations, thorough cleansing of the colon is necessary for an accurate examination. This consists of changes to your diet and a bowel preparation process starting the day prior to the procedure. Instructions and a preparation kit will be sent to you in advance of the test. You may also see the instructions here. Although sedation is not needed, you may wish to have a family member or friend accompany you for comfort purposes.

### **Where to go:**

CT Colonography is performed at The Kirklin Clinic of UAB Hospital, third floor Radiology area. Please check in with the Radiology desk upon arrival and they will assist you to the appropriate area.

### **What to expect:**

Once escorted into the CT examination area, you will change into a gown in a private area where you may store personal belongings. After you enter the CT scan room, our technologist will place a small rectal tube allowing gas distention of the colon which is needed for clear visualization of the colon. The exam only takes a few minutes. You will be scanned while on your back and again on your stomach, thus allowing optimal evaluation. The tube will be removed and the gas is quickly resorbed. After the scan is complete, you will then return to your dressing room where you will change into your clothes.

### **After the examination:**

You may expect a sensation of bloating for a short while following the procedure. The examination will be studied by one of our trained specialty radiologists who will then provide a report to your primary care doctor. The results and any recommendations will be communicated to you.

### **For more information:**

Call UAB Radiology at The Kirklin Clinic of UAB Hospital (205-801-9685).

Thank you for choosing UAB Radiology!