

GHENT FAMILY PRACTICE, INC.
3535 Granger Road, Akron, OH 44333
Phone: 330-666-3400 Fax: 330-665-5133
www.ghentfamilypractice.com

SCREENING FOR COLON AND RECTAL CANCER FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY

Every year many Americans die (48,000) or develop (96,000) colon or rectal cancer. Because this disease is so common and because early detection gives the best chance for cure, we offer screening tests for cancer of the colon and rectum.

There are many methods for detecting colon and rectal cancer. These include stool testing for hidden (occult) blood which may indicate a colon or rectal lesion. This method does not detect all cases of colon cancer, however.

Another method to detect colon and rectal problems is flexible sigmoidoscopy. This is an office procedure with minimal discomfort which takes 20 minutes. A small, flexible tube about the diameter of your little finger is inserted into the colon. It has a light on it and a special viewing channel through which the physician can view the colon. This enable us to discover more lesions including polyps which are not usually cancerous in themselves, but can lead to cancer if allowed to remain in the colon. It is also a much more comfortable exam than the old rigid sigmoidoscope exam.

You will want to check with your insurance company to see if your insurance will cover this exam. (Some health insurance policies do not cover "routine" or "health screening" procedures.) This exam is relatively expensive because of the time involved and the cost of the equipment. Screening sigmoidoscopes should be done when you feel well. Even if cancer is found, cure rates are approximately 95%! Cancers found after there are symptoms, such as pain, blood in stool, etc., have cure rates as low as 5%.

Risks of flexible sigmoidoscopy are minimal. Perforation of the colon is possible, but highly unlikely. Minor complications include abdominal distention, mild pain, and occasional drop in blood pressure. Keep in mind that the distance viewed is approximately 1/3 of the colon and that a lesion higher than that will not be seen and may require further investigation. The flexible sigmoidoscope, if successful, should discover over 2/3 of all colon cancers.

I certify that I have read and fully understand the above information. Any questions I had have been answered. I acknowledge that my insurance may not pay for "screening" sigmoidoscopes and I AGREE TO BE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT WHETHER OR NOT MY INUSRANCE APPROVES PAYMENT OF THE SERVICE.

Patient Signature

Date

Witness Signature

Date

SIGMOIDOSCOPY INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Buy 3 Fleet's Ready-to-use Enemas—Saline Laxative in green and white box.**
- 2. One hour before you leave for your appointment, take one Fleet's enema. Repeat enemas up to a total of three (3) times until the fluid you expel is clear. If you are still not clear, inform the nurse when you come into the office, and she will help you with an additional enema.**
- 3. If you cannot keep your scheduled appointment, PLEASE INFORM US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We set aside extra time and nursing assistance for this procedure, so we need to know as far in advance as possible.**