

COLON SCAN (COLONIC TRANSIT SCINTIGRAPHY)



Appointment

Date:

Time:

This test is all about your colon

Why has your doctor recommended this test?

A colonic transit scintigraphy study is used to see and measure the movement of food along the small intestine (small bowel) and large intestine (colon).

This scan is commonly used for evaluation of colonic motility (how well things move through the bowel) and identifying the cause of chronic constipation.

You can drive to and from the test if you want to, but you are more than welcome to bring a friend or family member for support. Our offices are clearly signposted with ample onsite parking.

Before your test

You must stop taking any laxatives, other medications or supplements at least 48 hrs prior to your test. You must stay off them for the duration of the test which could be up to 5 days. The technologist will let you know when it is okay take them again.

Continue to eat and drink normally prior to and during the study, even if you have stopped using your normal medications.

Please inform the technologist if you are pregnant, there is a possibility you might be pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding, prior to your scan.

What happens during the test?

- 1 On the morning of first day of the study, you are asked to drink a glass of water containing a small amount of mild radioactive liquid. This liquid does not affect the taste, smell or colour of the water, it does not make you feel any different, and there are no side effects.

- 2 You will be asked to lie down on the imaging bed, and the camera will be over your body. You don't need to take your clothes off.
- 3 About six hours after you drink the water, you will return for a two minute image (in the afternoon). You will then return each morning for the next 3-5 days for a scan (this will take about 10-15 minutes). Please take note of any bowel movements (time of day) during the study and let the technologist know at your next appointment.
- 4 At the end of the study, the technologist will let you know you are finished and that you may resume using your normal medications or supplements. Please let the technologist know if you are planning to travel overseas (air flight) during the next 3-4 weeks following the study.

Should I be worried about the Radiation dose?

There is no need to worry. The radiation dose from this procedure is relatively low and it's similar to what you would be exposed to in a standard x-ray.

However if you are worried or have any concerns, please share them with any of our staff, they're there to help.

After the scan

We'll ask you to wait in the waiting room while we make sure we have everything we need. This only takes a few moments and once done we'll let you know so you can go home or back to work.

We'll then have our specialist reviewers analyse your results and they will report back to your doctor within 1-2 days of doing the test.

If you have any questions at all, let us know.

NZMI Hamilton

Anglesea Clinic, Gate 1, 7 Thackeray Street
Hamilton Central, Hamilton 3204

Creating answers. Not questions.

P: 07 957 6087

E: hamilton@globalmedicalsolutions.com

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