

134 Virtual Colonoscopy

August 25, 2008

Intro: Colon cancer can be cured if it and pre-cancerous polyps are caught early. But doctors at Mayo Clinic say only half of all people at risk of colon cancer get screened for the disease. That's because some people don't know they should be screened and others simply don't want to undergo colonoscopy. But a new test developed at Mayo Clinic makes the screening process a whole lot easier. It's called virtual colonoscopy or CT colonography..

Video

Total running time 1:33

Audio

"I SEE CT COLONOGRAPHY AS A WAY OF EXTENDING COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING TO MORE AND MORE PEOPLE."
A WAY TO SAVE MORE LIVES.
"IT IS A FANCY X-RAY OF THE COLON WHERE WE'RE ABLE TO VISUALIZE THE LINING OF THE COLON TO CHECK FOR POLYPS."
OR FULLY DEVELOPED COLON CANCER. UNLIKE TRADITIONAL COLONOSCOPY, WHICH INVOLVES INSERTING A SCOPE INTO YOUR COLON WHILE YOU'RE UNDER SEDATION, CT COLONOGRAPHY IS

CG :28 to : 30

Joel Fletcher, M.D.

Mayo Clinic radiology

Standup

CG: 37 to :43

Vivien Williams

Reporting

QUICK AND NON-INVASIVE.

“YOU CAN GET YOUR EXAM IN THE MORNING AND GO BACK TO WORK LATER THAT SAME MORNING.”

DR. JOEL FLETCHER SAYS RIGHT NOW THE BOWEL PREPARATION FOR CT COLONOGRAPHY IS THE

SAME AS COLONOSCOPY. YOU

CAN ONLY HAVE LIQUIDS THE DAY BEFORE AND YOU HAVE TO DRINK

FROM TWO QUARTS TO A GALLON

OF THIS TO CLEAR OUT YOUR

SYSTEM. BUT DOCTORS ARE

DEVELOPING WAYS WHICH WILL

ONLY REQUIRE PATIENTS TO TAKE

BARIUM TABLETS AND A SMALL

AMOUNT OF LIQUID WITHOUT

CHANGING THEIR DIET.

THE TECHNOLOGY USES CT

SCANS TO CREATE TWO AND

THREE DIMENSIONAL MAPS OF

THE INNER SURFACE OF THE

COLON AND RECTUM.

Joel Fletcher, M.D.

“THERE ARE TWO WAYS I CAN
LOOK FOR POLYPS.”
ONE IS BY USING THE 2-D CT SCAN
TO LOOK FOR NARROWING AND
DEFECTS OF THE COLON.
“I CAN CORRELATE THAT VERY
QUICKLY WITH THE 3-D.”
THAT MASS IS A POLYP AND
POSSIBLY A CANCER.
IF CANCER IS FOUND PATIENTS
WILL THEN HAVE A TRADITIONAL
COLONOSCOPY SO DOCTORS CAN
TAKE A BIOPSY. THAT TEST
REMAINS THE STANDARD FOR
PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK. BUT FOR
PEOPLE AT AVERAGE OR LOW
RISK, VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY
MAY BE AN EASIER OPTION. FOR
MEDICAL EDGE, I’M VIVIEN
WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Dr. Fletcher says the test may get even easier in the future as it may be performed with limited bowel preparation.

He also says CT colonography has proven to be just as effective as traditional colonoscopy at detecting most cancers. He says the technology will not replace scoping, but it will reduce the number of people who have to have the procedure.

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