**CLINIC FOR COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY, P.A.**

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***COLONOSCOPY***

Colonoscopy refers to the visual examination of the large intestine. It is performed with a flexible videoscope. The scope is advanced through the large intestine under direct vision using the scope’s optical system. The procedure is viewed on a TV monitor. Photographs may be taken.

For adequate examination, special preparation of the bowel is required. Intravenous sedation is given and most people sleep through the procedure and have no recall of it. **Accordingly, after the procedure, you must have someone available to drive you home. You are not allowed to use public transportation to get to and from your procedure.**  **The Clinic and Hospital policies state you cannot drive yourself home nor take public transportation after sedation for the procedure. Failure to follow these policies will result in your procedure being cancelled.** Colonoscopy allows visualization of the entire large bowel in over 95 percent of cases. It combines the advantages of examination, diagnosis (biopsies can be taken), and treatment (polyps can be removed) into a single procedure.

The procedure is safe. However, in rare instances, complications can occur which require surgery. Perforation of the bowel occurs in about one of 2,000 diagnostic procedures. Perforation can be due to the passage of the instrument in difficult cases and can follow the removal of polyps. Bleeding occurs after the removal of polyps in 1% of cases. This can usually be managed without surgery. The procedure should be done, therefore, only for sound indications.

Colonoscopy is an outpatient procedure. Patients return home afterwards and usually resume normal activities the following day. Diet is usually unrestricted after colonoscopy.

For more information on colonoscopy and on screening for colorectal cancer, please see our web site at ***www.ccrshsv.com***