Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

What to expect after CT colonography

This leaflet explains what to expect after a CT colonography (scan of your bowel) in the Radiology (X-ray) Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

After the scan

You can resume a normal diet and we recommend that you drink plenty of fluids for the next 2-3 days to prevent dehydration. You should also take any medication that you may have stopped for the test.

Is there anything I should look out for?

Side effects are very rare after CT colonography. The carbon dioxide gas used to inflate your bowel is absorbed quite quickly following the test but you may experience some minor abdominal discomfort, bloating and wind for the next 12-24 hours. Resuming your normal diet and moving around will help to ease any discomfort.

The Buscopan injection to help relax the bowel can cause a dry mouth and blurred vision, which lasts about 30 minutes. **Please do not drive if your vision is blurred** and wait for it to return to normal. If you had the Buscopan injection to relax the bowel and develop a very painful red eye over the next 24 hours, contact your GP immediately.

Please contact your GP immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms over the next four days:

- Severe abdominal pain
- Increasing painful abdominal discomfort
- Sweating and nausea

How do I get my results?

You may already have a follow-up hospital clinic appointment to get the results.

If not, the hospital consultant who referred you for the test should send you an appointment to come and get the results. Your GP will also get a copy of the result.

Please telephone the consultant's secretary (via the hospital switchboard) if you do not receive a clinic appointment within two weeks of having this test.

Contacting us

Radiology Department Tel 0118 322 7991.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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