



Outreach of the Month: Colorectal Screening

Information for Your Patients

March 27, 2017

Volume 6, Number 2

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What is a Colonoscopy?

*Colonoscopy is a procedure that enables an examiner to evaluate the inside of the colon. (Large intestine or large bowel)

*A colonoscope is a four foot long, flexible tube about the thickness of a finger with a camera and a source of light at its tip.

*The tip is inserted into the anus and then advanced slowly, under visual control, into the rectum and through the colon.

Why is a Colonoscopy done?

*Most colonoscopies are done as part of screening programs for colon cancer.

*Colonoscopies are also done to investigate the cause of blood in the stool, abdominal pain, diarrhea, or an abnormality found on x-rays.

*Healthy people at normal risk for colon cancer should undergo colonoscopy at age 50 and every 10 years thereafter.

What if abnormalities are detected during colonoscopy?

*A sample of the tissue can be obtained if an abnormal area needs to be better evaluated.

*Removal of polyps is an important method of preventing cancer

Visit your Primary Care Provider to learn more about Colorectal screenings

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