

Ask your doctor for a referral to Charlotte Radiology

Typically your referring physician will schedule an appointment for you. If you have been asked to schedule the appointment yourself, please have your physician's order and any pre-authorization information required by your insurance or health plan provider in hand and call 704-442-4390. For Cabarrus County patients call 704-403-1729.

Appointments are scheduled Monday through Friday, 8am - 5pm. In order to allow time for patient registration, we ask that you arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled exam time.

For more information

If you have questions about any of our procedures or for directions, please visit our comprehensive website:

www.charlotteradiology.com

May we also suggest:

www.radiologyinfo.org

The following locations offer Virtual Colonoscopy:

Carolinas Imaging Services - Ballantyne
15110 John J. Delaney Drive, Suite 130
Charlotte, NC 28277

Carolinas Imaging Services - Northcross
16455 Statesville Road, Suite 110
Huntersville, NC 28078

Carolinas Medical Center (CMC)
1000 Blythe Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28203

CMC- Mercy
2001 Vail Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28207

CMC-NorthEast
920 Church St., North
Concord, NC 28025

CMC- Pineville
10628 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28210

CMC- University
8800 North Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28262

CMC – NE Outpatient
Imaging at Copperfield
1065 Northeast Gateway Court, NE
Concord, NC 28025

www.charlotteradiology.com



Virtual Colonoscopy

providing the perfect balance of health and spirit.

Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. Nevertheless, individuals at the greatest risk of developing colorectal cancer remain largely unscreened. This is due, in part, to poor public awareness and acceptance of current screening techniques.

Who should have a Virtual Colonoscopy?

Charlotte Radiology offers Virtual Colonoscopy (also called CT Colonography) to examine the colon and rectum for the presence of cancer or pre-cancerous polyps. This procedure can help disclose tumors, bleeding, inflammatory bowel disease and diverticulosis.

Our physicians encourage anyone older than 50 years of age to be screened for polyps every 7-10 years. Those with a history of polyps, colon cancer or the presence of blood in the stool should be screened every five years. Other patients who are recommended for a Virtual Colonoscopy screening are those who have had an incomplete colonoscopy, low-to-average risk patients who prefer not to have a colonoscopy, frail patients and patients who are unable to tolerate a colonoscopy.

The benefits of having a Virtual Colonoscopy screening

Virtual Colonoscopy uses computed tomography (CT) scanning to obtain a clear, three-dimensional interior view of the colon or large intestine. Unlike optical colonoscopy, virtual colonoscopy requires no sedation and no recovery time because it is a minimally invasive procedure.

Virtual colonoscopy eliminates the risk of perforating the colon while enabling enhanced detection of polyps as small as three millimeters (slightly less than one-eighth of an inch) in diameter. While conventional colonoscopy takes two hours or more to perform, virtual colonoscopy can be completed within half an hour and is a far more comfortable procedure.

In addition to detecting polyps or tumors, this procedure may also reveal non-neoplastic processes in the colon such as inflammatory bowel disease and diverticulosis. The exam also provides a limited evaluation of the remaining organs in the abdomen and pelvis (i.e. abdominal aorta, liver, kidneys, pancreas, spleen, etc.).

Preparing for your screening

Just as for conventional colonoscopy, you must follow a bowel-emptying regimen the day before the examination to enable clear imaging of tissues. You will be placed on a liquid diet and prescribed laxatives to eliminate all solid material from your colon.

What to expect during the screening

The CT scan will only last around 15 minutes. Virtual Colonoscopy requires rectal insertion of a narrow, flexible tube, through which air is pumped to expand the folds of the colon. For your examination, you will lie comfortably on your back on a padded table that will move in short steps through the scanner as a CT tube rotates around you. At each step, the scanner completes a separate view. The information is processed by the computer and displayed as three-dimensional images on a video screen for the technologist.

You will be asked to remain as still as possible to produce the clearest images, which includes holding your breath for up to 20-25 seconds.

The vast majority of patients who have a Virtual Colonoscopy report a feeling of fullness when the colon is inflated during the exam. Significant pain occurs in fewer than 5% of patients. The scanning procedure itself causes no pain or other symptoms.

After the screening

After the CT screening, you may return to your normal activities. Radiologists specialized in body imaging will analyze the images obtained from the CT on a computer program that shows a 3D image of the colon. They will send the results of your exam to your physician within one week of the study and your physician will contact you to review the results.