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COLONOSCOPY PREP FOR CHILDREN

What is a colonoscopy? A colonoscopy is an examination in which a small flexible tube is inserted through the child's rectum into the colon. The tube has a tiny video camera at the tip, allowing the physician to observe the tissue on a video monitor. In addition, the colonoscope has a channel through which a biopsy forceps (similar to a tweezer) can be inserted, allowing small tissue samples to be taken. Specimens are sent to a pathologist for inspection under a microscope. The colonoscopy and biopsy process is not painful. However, if your child receives general anesthesia, he or she may experience a sore throat and be drowsy for several hours after the procedure.

Preparation for the Procedure:

In order to properly visualize the intestines, they must be "prepped" or flushed of their contents. These medications will cause diarrhea-this is a desired effect. They may cause cramping as well. Your child should be home from school with easy access to the bathroom when the medication is given. The goal is to be passing clear fluid only without any formed stool. Please contact us if this does not occur, so that we can determine whether any additional medications are necessary for preparation. **Once the prep has begun, your child must be on a diet consisting of clear liquids only. Clear liquids are those that you can see through.** Acceptable liquids include water, ginger ale, chicken broth (no chicken or noodles), apple juice, pedialyte or jello. **For the last 7 hours prior to the procedure, your child should have nothing to eat or drink.**