



Information for
patients and
carers

Colonic Transit Study

What is a colonic transit study?

A colonic transit study is an X-ray examination to investigate the rate at which material passes through your digestive system and colon (large bowel).

This examination allows the Clinician who referred you to assess the function of your digestive system and colon using X-rays and it may offer an explanation for your symptoms.

Your examination will be performed by a healthcare professional known as a Radiographer.

Your colonic transit study will require you to attend the X-ray department on different days during the week. During each attendance you should be in the department for no longer than one hour.

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breast/chest feeding
- If you weigh over 28 stone (178 kg)
- If you feel you may need further assistance with transferring (including the use of a hoist)
- If you require an interpreter, please inform us as soon as you receive your appointment letter and we will arrange an official interpreter for you

Are there any special preparations required before the examination?

On the morning of your first appointment you will be asked to swallow two capsules (made of gelatine).

The capsules contain small markers (of barium) which show up on the X-ray.

The capsules dissolve once swallowed and the markers are released into your stomach.

These markers will then pass into your colon. It is extremely rare to have an allergic reaction from the capsules.

They contain gelatine and barium; if you think you may be allergic to either of these substances please inform the X-ray department when you receive your appointment and before taking the capsules on the telephone number below.

You will then attend the X-ray department later that day for your first abdomen X-ray.

The examination will require you to visit the hospital at certain intervals throughout the week for an X-ray to assess where the markers are within your colon.

Please see your enclosed appointment letter for the dates and times you will need to attend the X-ray department.

If you take any type of laxatives, enemas or suppositories you will need to stop these **two days before** your first appointment. You may resume these **after your last appointment**.

You can eat and drink as normal before and during the week of your examination.

Can I bring a relative or friend with me?

Anyone can accompany you to the hospital but they will usually not be allowed into the room when you have your examination.

Please note that we do not have childcare facilities; if you need to bring your children with you please bring along an adult who can supervise them while your examination is being done.

What happens when I arrive at the X-ray department?

When you arrive at the X-ray department please book-in at the reception desk where you will be asked to have a seat in the waiting area.

You will then be shown to the department's changing area and asked to put on a hospital gown before going into the examination room.

Once in the room the Radiographer will check your details and explain the abdomen X-ray examination to you to check you are happy to proceed.

What happens during the examination?



The Radiographer will ask you to lie on your back on the X-ray table and will position the X-ray camera above your abdomen. The camera will not touch you.

You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds whilst the X-ray is being taken.

Although the Radiographer will go behind a glass screen you will be observed at all times.

The abdomen X-ray will demonstrate the location of the markers within your colon.

What happens after the examination?

After taking the abdomen X-ray the Radiographer will check to ensure it provides the information required.

You will then be able to get dressed and leave the X-ray department. The Radiographer will clarify with you when your next appointment is before you leave.

Are there any risks?

There are some small risks involved with X-rays but only the minimum amount of radiation is used to produce the images required.

We use the smallest dose possible, in line with national regulations, to provide as much information as we can.

This allows the Clinician to make an accurate diagnosis to help plan your treatment, therefore the benefits of having the X-ray far outweigh the radiation dose you will receive.

When will I receive the examination results?

The images will be reported after your final visit. How you get your results depends on which Clinician sent you for your X-ray.

You will be advised when you attend about how to receive the results of this examination.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact Royal Preston Hospital X-ray Department on **01772 522096**.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یی چھپا یں یبہ ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے برا ئے مہر یان پو ے یچھہ ی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعه بأ حرف كبير ة و بلغات إذا كنت تر يد مسا عدة في فهم هذه لمعلومات يُر جى أن تطلب أخرى يمكن تو فسير هذه المعلوما ت

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Division: Diagnostics and Clinical Support
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