

## Virtual Colonography

**Virtual Colonography is a technique which creates a 3D model of the colon using a spiral CT (Computed Tomography) scanner. Using sophisticated computer graphics, the model is stored on a computer disc and the colon is examined throughout its length without having to use an endoscopic instrument.**

### Preparation

As with any examination of the colon, a clean, well-prepared bowel is important for accuracy and this is no different with virtual colonoscopy. For this reason, a full preparation is required.

Separate instructions will be issued when you make your appointment.

### Procedure

No anaesthetic is required and this is an out-patient procedure.

An injection of a muscle relaxant is made into an upper arm vein in order to relax the bowel for the duration of the examination. A small tube is inserted into the rectum. The colon is then distended with gas and two series of images are obtained.

The data from these images is transferred to the computer disc for computer processing at a later stage. As much air as possible is evacuated from the colon and you will then be able to leave. There are no special precautions.

The information will be constructed and a report issued the following day for your doctor to review.

Please contact your referring doctor to discuss the results.

### How long will the procedure take?

The procedure normally takes approximately 30 minutes.

### Following the procedure

There is an increased amount of gas within the colon which, after the relaxing agent ceases to have effect, will be expelled in a normal way.

PLEASE BRING ANY PREVIOUS X-RAYS OR SCANS WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR EXAMINATION.

CONFIRM ANY PREPARATION REQUIRED WITH STAFF WHEN MAKING YOUR APPOINTMENT.

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# Your doctor may request to go filmless

**With the growing use of digital imaging, Pittwater Radiology is giving doctors the opportunity to not receive hard copy films and to replace them with electronic reports and images – in other words, go “filmless”.**

If your referring doctor elects to go “filmless,” once you have completed your medical imaging examination, you will no longer have to wait for x-ray films. The images will be sent electronically to your doctor’s computer together with a report from our Radiologist.

If you require films in the future, all films are stored digitally and can be requested at anytime with 24 hour notice.

VIRTUAL COLONOGRAPHY IS PERFORMED AT OUR  
DEE WHY, FRENCHS FOREST & MONA VALE CLINICS

## Pittwater Radiology clinics

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### Mona Vale

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### Frenchs Forest

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