

# Ct Colonography (Ctc)

## What Is Ct Colonography?

CT colonography (CTC), also known as a virtual colonoscopy, is a minimally invasive imaging test that examines the inside of your bowel using a specialised CT scanner. This test provides detailed 2D and 3D images of your colon and rectum, helping to diagnose conditions such as:

- Bowel cancer
- Colonic polyps
- Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
- Diverticular disease

Unlike a traditional colonoscopy, CTC does not require the insertion of a camera into the bowel, making it a quicker and less invasive alternative for some patients.

## Do You Need Any Preparation Beforehand?

For the scan to produce clear and accurate images, your bowel must be completely empty. You will receive:

- Laxative sachets (usually PicoLax) to take the day before the procedure
- Instructions to avoid eating or drinking from midnight before the examination
- Guidance on taking normal medications—you can usually continue them as usual

Proper bowel preparation is essential for a successful scan, so following the instructions carefully is important.

## What Does The Ct Colonography Scan Involve?

- Changing into a hospital gown—you may be asked to remove some clothing for the scan
- **Placing a cannula**—a small tube (cannula) is inserted into a vein in your arm to allow the

contrast dye to be given, improving the visibility of your organs and blood vessels

- **Inflating the bowel**—a small tube is gently inserted into your rectum to introduce air, expanding the bowel for clearer images
- **Administering an injection**—a muscle relaxant (Buscopan) is sometimes given to relax the bowel and reduce cramping
- **Scanning process**—you will lie on a moving examination table, which passes through the doughnut-shaped CT scanner. The machine will take hundreds of cross-sectional images, which are reconstructed into 3D images to provide a detailed view of your bowel

The procedure is quick and painless, usually lasting around 15 to 20 minutes.

## What Happens After The Test?

- You can eat and drink normally once the scan is complete
- You may experience mild bloating or wind-like discomfort, but this usually settles quickly
- The scan results will be reviewed by a specialist, and a detailed report will be sent to your consultant

If polyps or abnormalities are found, your consultant may recommend a colonoscopy for further assessment or biopsy if needed.

## What Are The Benefits Of Ct Colonography?

- **Less invasive than a traditional colonoscopy**—no need for a camera to be inserted into the entire bowel
- **Highly detailed 3D imaging**—helps to detect polyps and cancers at an early stage
- **Short procedure time**—typically takes around 15 to 20 minutes
- **Minimal recovery time**—no sedation is required, so you can resume normal activities

immediately

CTC is an excellent alternative to colonoscopy for patients who are not suitable for an endoscopic procedure or prefer a less invasive option.

## Are There Any Risks?

CT colonography is a safe and commonly performed test. However, there are some minor risks

- Mild bloating or cramping due to the air introduced into the bowel
- Rare allergic reaction to the contrast dye (inform your doctor if you have any allergies)
- Minimal radiation exposure, similar to other CT scans

If you experience severe pain, unusual bleeding, or allergic reactions, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

## Why Choose The Midlands Bowel Clinic?

At Midlands Bowel Clinic, we provide

- **Expert consultants** specialising in bowel imaging and diagnostics
- **State-of-the-art CT technology** to ensure the highest quality imaging
- **Comprehensive bowel assessments** to detect and diagnose conditions early
- **Personalised treatment plans** tailored to your symptoms and health needs

## Contact Us

If you have symptoms such as persistent bowel changes, rectal bleeding, unexplained weight loss, or abdominal pain, CT colonography could provide crucial insights into your bowel health.