



## Virtual Colonoscopy

Virtual colonoscopy (VC) is an imaging test that looks for cancer, [polyps](#), or other disease in the large intestine (colon). The medical name of this test is CT colonography.

### How the Test is Performed

VC is different from regular [colonoscopy](#). Regular colonoscopy uses a long, lighted tool called a colonoscope that is inserted into the rectum and large intestine.

VC is done at centers like InHealth Imaging, that have the appropriate type of equipment such as a MRI or CT. No sedatives are needed and no colonoscope is used.

The exam is done as follows:

- You lie on your left side on a narrow table that is connected to an [MRI](#) or [CT](#) machine.
- Your knees are drawn up toward your chest.
- A small, flexible tube is inserted into the rectum. Air is pumped through the tube to make the colon bigger and easier to see.
- You then lie on your back.
- The table slides into a large tunnel in the CT or MRI machine and scans of your colon are taken.
- Scans are also taken while you lie on your stomach.
- You must stay very still during this procedure, since movement can blur the scans. You may be asked to hold your breath briefly while each a scan is done.

A computer combines all the images to form three-dimensional pictures of the colon. The doctor can then view the images on a video monitor.