

CONSENT FOR COLONOSCOPY/POLYPECTOMY

Colonoscopy involves an inspection of the colon using a flexible fiberoptic instrument. Small specimens of the bowel mucosa (biopsies) are often taken for laboratory analysis at this procedure. A variety of other operations may be carried out through the colonoscope, the most common is removal of polyps.

Serious complications occur rarely (approximately 1 in 1000 patients), these include perforation (making a hole in the wall) haemorrhage or anaesthetic difficulties.

Blood transfusion may be necessary. If you have serious heart or chest problems special precautions need to be taken to reduce any possible risk. A perforation of the bowel will usually require an open operation for repair.

Cancer of the large bowel arises from pre-existing benign polyps. It is therefore advised that if polyps are found at the time of examination they should be removed to prevent subsequent change to cancers. Most polyps are removed by placing a wire snare around the polyp and burning off with diathermy.

The major complications, which can occur, include haemorrhage from where the polyp has been removed or perforation of the bowel. The frequency of such complications is rare and will be dependent, among other things, on the size and nature of the polyp. It is normal practice to remove any polyps found at the time of the colonoscopy. The colonoscopist will not be able to discuss this fully with you at the time of the examination owing to the effects of the sedation.

Colonoscopy has a high degree of accuracy in picking up bowel pathology. However no examination modality is perfect and there remains a small risk that significant bowel lesions may be missed at colonoscopy.

Death is a remote possibility with any interventional procedure. A number of rare side effects may occur with any endoscopic procedure. If you have any reservations or wish to discuss the matter further please inform the Sister-in-Charge before your procedure. You are advised not to drive a car, operate heavy machinery, sign legal documents or return to work until the following day.

I hereby agree to a colonoscopy being performed and I am agreeable with the removal of polyps (should they be found) at the time of the colonoscopy.

ID Label

Signature.....

Date.....Witness.....