An empty colon is the most important part of a successful colonoscopy. If your colon is not empty, polyps and lesions can be missed; the procedure may take longer (increasing the risk of complications); or the whole process may need to be repeated or rescheduled.

Follow the steps below for a successful colonoscopy.

- **Before your colonoscopy…**
  - Patients over 50 years of age must have an EKG within 6 months prior to procedure.
  - Be sure to get the necessary blood work or clearance if you were instructed to do so.
  - Female patients under 55 years of age must have a pregnancy test within 6 days of procedure.
  - If there is any chance of pregnancy, take a home pregnancy test prior to taking the prep. Call immediately if positive.
  - If you have diabetes, talk to your prescribing doctor for specific instructions for your diabetes medications.

- **7 days before your colonoscopy**
  - **Talk to your doctor if you take blood thinners**
    Ask your prescribing doctor for specific instructions if you take blood thinners. Blood thinners include:
    - Aggrenox®
    - Agrylin®
    - Aspirin
    - Coumadin® (Warfarin)
    - Effient®
    - Heparin
    - Lovenox®
    - Persantine®
    - Plavix®
    - Pradaxa®
    - Ticlid®
    - Xarelto®

  - **Arrange for a ride home**
    You will be drowsy after your exam and will not be allowed to drive yourself home. Arrange for an adult, 18 years or older, to drive you home.
If you cancel your appointment less than 5 days prior to your procedure, you will be responsible for a $100 service fee.

5 days before your colonoscopy

- Stop taking supplements
  These include: iron pills, vitamin E, fiber supplements (Metamucil®, Citrucel®, Fiberall®), and herbal supplements (echinacea, gingko biloba, ginseng, fish oil)

- Get your bowel prep items from the drug store:
  - SUPREP®
    - Take your prescription to the pharmacy today.
  - Petroleum jelly (vitamin A&D ointment)
    - To help with comfort during your bowel prep, you can apply some petroleum jelly or vitamin A&D ointment to your bottom or anus after each bowel movement. You can also use Vaseline®, Destin®, Tucks®, or zinc oxide.

4 days before your colonoscopy

- Stop eating high-fiber foods
  Fibers from these foods can remain in the colon and clog the scope. High-fiber foods include:
  - fresh and dried fruit
  - nuts, seeds (flax, sunflower, quinoa)
  - oatmeal, granola, bran
  - popcorn
  - pureed foods
  - raw vegetables w/ skins and seeds (beans, corn, onions, peas, tomatoes)
  - thick, pulpy fruit juices
  - tough meat
  - whole grain bread, cereals, pasta

1 day before your colonoscopy

- Stop eating solid food, milk and dairy products
- No alcohol

For more info: www.brookhavengastro.com
Patient Instructions

○ **Consume clear liquids.** These include:
  - Broth or bouillon
  - Clear juices: apple, white grape, or white cranberry
  - Italian ices
  - Fruit-flavored drinks: Crystal Light®
  - Hard candy
  - Honey
  - JELL-O®
  - Plain coffee and tea
  - Popsicles®
  - Soda: ginger ale, cola, Sprite®, 7-Up®
  - Sorbet
  - Sports drinks: Gatorade®, Powerade®
  - Water

No **red**, **blue**, **orange**, or **purple** colors.

Medicines should be taken on your regular schedule unless otherwise directed.

○ **Start your bowel prep**

  **4pm – start 1st dose:**
  1. Pour ONE (1) 6 oz bottle of SUPREP® liquid into the mixing container.
  2. Add cool drinking water to the 16 oz line on the container and stir to mix.
  3. Drink **ALL** the liquid in the container.
  4. You must drink two (2) more 16 oz containers of water over the next 1 hour.

  **8pm – start 2nd dose:**
  - Follow steps 1 – 4 above.
  - Starting at midnight, you may have nothing by mouth, including water.

✓ Some people find drinking the mixture through a straw at the back of the tongue helps improve the taste. You can also suck on a lemon wedge after each glass.

✓ Drink plenty of clear liquids during and after bowel-prep process to help prevent dehydration.

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Patient Instructions

Day of your colonoscopy

- Starting at midnight before your exam, it’s VERY important that you don’t take ANYTHING by mouth, including water.
- You should take blood pressure, thyroid, and heart medications on the morning before your procedure with a sip of water.
- Arrive early for your procedure
  - Wear loose comfortable clothing
  - Leave jewelry and valuables at home
  - If your meds have changed, bring meds list with milligrams and quantity
  - Bring photo ID, insurance card

After your colonoscopy

- Rest remainder of the day
- Do not:
  - Drive until day after
  - Return to work
  - Make important decisions (signing legal papers)

Call your doctor if you experience:

- Fever/chills
- Nausea/vomiting
- Severe abdominal pain
- Rectal Bleeding

Specific Instructions: