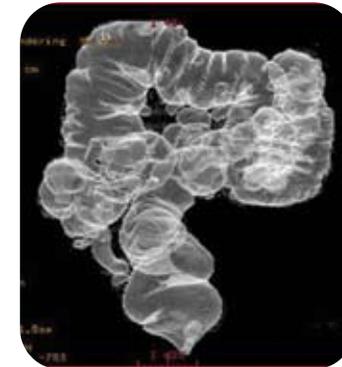


CT Colonography (Virtual Colonoscopy)



ProScan Imaging Midtown

5400 Kennedy Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45213

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The Patient's Experience

- We perform all CT colonography exams in an outpatient setting at our Midtown Cincinnati imaging center. **The actual procedure only takes about 15 minutes and does not require the use of sedatives.**
- First the patient is scanned to produce a series of two-dimensional cross-sections along the length of the colon. The scanning procedure is then repeated with the patient lying on his or her stomach. **Total radiation exposure is about 40% of that from a typical CT exam.**
- Next the radiologist evaluates the results to determine if there are any abnormalities in the colon. **If there are any issues with the test results, the patient will be referred to his or her own physician for a conventional colonoscopy the same day, so that polyps may be removed or tissue samples taken.** Otherwise, the patient can resume normal activity immediately.

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Each year, 65,000 people in the U.S. die from colorectal cancer (CRC) disease and another 155,000 new cases are diagnosed, making CRC the nation's second most common cause of cancer-related death.

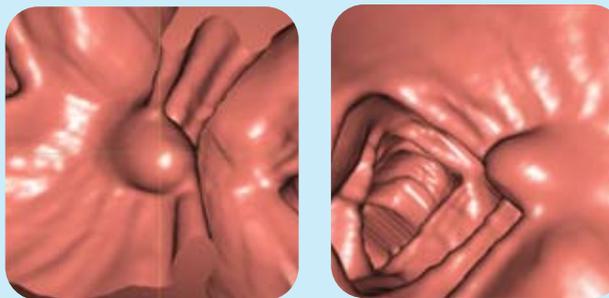
If CRC is detected in its earliest stage, patients have a five year-survival rate of 85% to 100%. If it is discovered in later stages, the survival rate drops to 50% or below. **For these reasons, the American Medical Association strongly recommends colorectal screening every seven years for all individuals over the age of 50, particularly those with a family history of CRC.**

Computed tomographic colonography (CTC), also called **virtual colonoscopy (VC),** is a non-invasive alternative to conventional colonoscopy. By combining CT technology with sophisticated computer software, CTC creates two- and three-dimensional images of an individual's colon.

This procedure is faster, easier, and more comfortable for the patient than a conventional colonoscopy.

For many patients, CTC is a viable option for the detection of colon and bowel disease, including polyps, diverticulosis, and CRC.

Recent studies indicate that CTC is able to detect 90% of polyps 10 millimeters or more in diameter – the same rate reported for conventional colonoscopy. Because many patients are unable or unwilling to undergo conventional endoscopic colonoscopy, CTC is often an appropriate alternative. However, the physician cannot take tissue samples or remove polyps, so a conventional colonoscopy must be performed if any abnormalities are found.



“Currently only about 20% [of patients] ... comply with the AMA's recommendation. CT colonography has the potential to increase compliance significantly by offering an alternative screening method for appropriate patients.”

***– Brigham and Women's Hospital Website, 2008
(www.virtualcolonoscopy.org/InfoClinician.htm)***

Indications for CT Colonography

- Patients who cannot or will not undergo conventional colonoscopy
- Patients with absolute contraindications to conventional colonoscopy
- Patients with relative contraindications to conventional colonoscopy, including:
 - Cardiovascular disease that increases risk of sedation
 - Strictures in the colon
 - Stenosis
 - Obstructive cancer or growths in the colon

Contraindications for CT Colonography

- Active inflammation of the colon
- History of Crohn's disease
- History of right colectomy or recent colectomy
- Absence of anorectum
- History of pelvic irradiation (relative contraindication)

Reimbursement Status

- The cost of **screening CT colonography** (for patients who have no symptoms of colorectal disease) currently is not covered by Medicare or most private insurance plans.
- The cost of **diagnostic CT colonography** is reimbursable if Medicare deems the procedure medically necessary – that is, if the patient is unable to have a standard colonoscopy because of cardiovascular disease, colon strictures, stenosis, or obstructive colon cancer or growths.
- For patients paying out of pocket, ProScan Imaging offers generous discounts for prompt payments, as well as interest-free or low-interest financing through the Care Credit healthcare card program. Short-term financing and financial assistance are also available to qualified patients.

CPT Codes for CT Colonography

- **0066T – VC Screening**
- **0067T – VC Diagnostic**



For more information about CT colonography, or to schedule a patient for an appointment, please call:

***1-877-PROSCAN
www.proscan.com/ctc***