

# WESTSIDE GASTROENTEROLOGY

## CONSULTANTS

### **Colonoscopy Bowel Preparation Instructions (28M) MiraLAX®**

Note that these instructions are also used if you are having an upper endoscopy and a colonoscopy scheduled for the same day.

#### **PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS ON THE DAY YOU RECEIVE THEM**

Our goal is to provide excellent quality care during your visit with us and throughout your experience with our office. We have included some very important information pertaining to your procedure and care.

#### **About Colonoscopy**

Bowel preparation (cleansing) is needed to perform effective colonoscopy. Any stool remaining in the colon can hide lesions and result in the need to repeat the colonoscopy. You should plan to be at the procedure area 3-4 hours. It is critical that you follow the instructions as directed. Your physician will discuss your procedure results with you and your family members when you are in the recovery room. If any biopsies or tissue removal is performed, you will receive a letter with those results about 2-3 weeks after the procedure. If there are serious findings on the biopsy, your physician will contact you.

Every effort will be made to keep your appointment at the schedule time, but unexpected delays and emergencies may occur and affect your procedure time. We give each patient the attention needed for his or her procedure and apologize in advance for delays if these occur.

**If you must cancel or reschedule your procedure, please call Endoscopy Scheduling at 317-745-3525, or our office at 317-745-7310, as soon as possible. If you miss your procedure without cancelling with sufficient notice, you may be dismissed from our office/practice.**

## **14 DAYS BEFORE PROCEDURE**

- If you are taking weight loss medication, contact your prescribing physician for instructions on stopping the medication prior to your procedure.

## **7 DAYS BEFORE PROCEDURE**

- Read all prep instructions.
- Purchase prep medications.
- Purchase clear liquid diet items as noted on the shopping list below.
- **Make arrangements for someone 18 years or older to come with you to the procedure.** Sedation is usually given during your procedure. A responsible adult must be present before, during and after your procedure. Drop offs are not allowed. After your procedure you will not be able to drive, operate machinery, make important decisions, or return to work for the rest of the day. You may resume normal activities the next day unless your doctor directs otherwise. No Taxi or Uber/Lyft drivers.
- **Begin avoiding corn, popcorn, nuts, or foods containing visible seeds.**
- Stop any multi-vitamins, iron supplements, and herbal supplements.

### **Bowel Prep and Clear Liquids Shopping List**

These medications are all available over the counter without a prescription. They are typically found in the laxative section of the pharmacy. Generic versions of these medications are acceptable.

- **MiraLax** 510-gram bottle (enough for 28 doses). Other names are Glycolax or Polyethylene Glycol 3350 - these are identical to MiraLax.
- **Bisacodyl** laxative tablets (common brand name is Dulcolax) – only 4 tablets will be needed, most packages contain more than this.
- A total of 128 ounces (equals 4 quarts) of **Gatorade (NO RED or PURPLE drinks)**. Patients who do not like Gatorade or have diabetes should use G2 (low sugar), Gatorade Zero, POWERADE Zero or Pedialyte.
- OPTIONAL - **Simethicone** 80mg or 125mg (common brand name is Gas-X) to use if needed for bloating symptoms.
- OPTIONAL - a **petroleum-based ointment product** or diaper rash ointment for potential irritation from frequent bowel movements.

## **2-7 DAYS BEFORE PROCEDURE**

- **STOP anticoagulants/blood thinners** exactly as you have been instructed by your prescribing physician. This may include Plavix/Clopidogrel, Coumadin/Warfarin, Pradaxa/Dabigatran, Eliquis or other non-aspirin blood thinners. Do not stop these medications on your own. If you are uncertain if you need to stop a medication, please call our office for instructions. If you take low dose aspirin (81 mg), you may continue taking it.
- If you have diabetes and were not given specific instructions for management of medications, call our office for instructions.

## **2 DAYS BEFORE PROCEDURE**

- Stop anti-inflammatory medications: Motrin, Advil, Ibuprofen, Aleve, Naproxen.
- You can take Tylenol.

## **1 DAY BEFORE PROCEDURE**

- No solid food.
- Drink plenty of fluids throughout the day to avoid dehydration including: water, clear fruit juices, white grape juice, apple juice, Kool-Aid, POWERADE, clear soup broth or bouillon, popsicles, coffee (no cream), tea, hard candy/jelly beans, soda pop (7-Up, Sprite, regular or diet Pepsi and Coke, ginger ale, orange soda), Jell-O (without fruit or other additions).
- **NO ALCOHOL**
- **NO RED/PURPLE colored drinks, popsicles, or Jell-O.**
- **Step 1: Mix 7 capfuls of Miralax into each 32-ounce Gatorade** (32 ounces equals 1 quart) bottle until dissolved and keep in refrigerator.
  - You may apply a petroleum-based product or diaper rash ointment to the rectal area if you experience discomfort from frequent stools or take over the counter Gas-X for bloating discomfort at any time during the prep process.
  - The following times listed are only guidelines. Do not start the bowel prep until you are able to stay home/close to bathroom facilities.
  - The timing of how quickly the prep begins to work varies widely in different patients but generally will start to have an effect within 4 hours, often before then.

- It is also common to have loose stool in middle of the night and/or the morning of the procedure.
- **Step 2: At approximately 4pm, take 4 Dulcolax laxative tablets** with water or clear liquids.
- **Step 3: At approximately 6pm begin drinking the Miralax/Gatorade solution at a rate of 8 ounces every 15-30 minutes.**
  - Continue drinking until you have completed the first 3 bottles of prep solution.
  - Drinking the prep as quickly as tolerated provides better results, but YOU SHOULD PACE YOURSELF. Take a break from drinking the prep if you start feeling nauseated. It is much better to finish the prep slowly than to cause nausea or vomiting by drinking it too quickly.
- **STEP 4: The time to start drinking the fourth Miralax/Gatorade bottle depends on the time of your procedure.**
  - If your procedure time is scheduled BEFORE 11am, drink the fourth bottle of Miralax/Gatorade solution 6-9 hours before your procedure time.
  - If your procedure time is scheduled AT or AFTER 11am, split your prep and drink your fourth bottle of Miralax/Gatorade solution on the morning of your procedure starting 6-9 hours before the procedure time. You must complete this bottle at least 4 hours prior to your procedure time.
  - You can continue drinking additional clear liquids (sips) until 4 hours before your procedure. The goal of the bowel prep is to have colorless (or close to colorless) liquid stool by the time of your procedure. It is normal to have yellow or green diarrhea, regardless of the color of the liquid drinks.

**Note:** If you think the prep is not working call the office at 317-745-7310, or if after hours call the hospital operator at 317-745-4451 and ask for the GI doctor on call.

### **DAY OF PROCEDURE**

- Do not eat any solid food. You may have the prep and sips of clear liquids (liquids you can see through) up until 4 hours before the procedure.
- As above, if your procedure is after 11am, drink the fourth bottle of Miralax/Gatorade solution beginning 6-9 hours before the procedure time. You must complete this bottle at least 4 hours prior to your procedure time.

- You can take your morning medications with sips of water but do not take ace inhibitor blood pressure medication (e.g. lisinopril, enalapril, benazepril).
- Wear loose fitting clothes, NO jewelry, makeup, or hair products.

### **What to expect after the procedure**

- Check your discharge paperwork for instructions regarding new medications or changes to your prior medications and other directions.
- You may also experience some cramping or bloating because of the air introduced into the colon during the procedure. This should disappear quickly when you pass gas. You may consider taking Gas-X pills (over the counter) at home to help with this. Call our office with any severe or worsening abdominal pain.
- You were given sedation during the procedure. A responsible adult must drive you home. No driving is allowed for the rest of the day. No exceptions.
- We recommend having a responsible adult stay with you through the rest of the day after the procedure.
- Rest at home with activity as tolerated. Avoid dangerous activities.
- Even if you feel alert after the procedure your judgment and coordination may be impaired for the rest of the day. No alcohol, as this can interact with sedation you received.
- After your procedure, progress as tolerated to your usual diet. You may want to start with a bland diet such as bread, rice, pudding, applesauce, mashed potatoes, cold cereal, or ice cream.
- The day following your procedure you may resume all normal activities and diet.

Here are some educational resources that you may find helpful:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eA1PIMa1ULg>

<https://gastro.org/practice-guidance/gi-patient-center/topic/colonoscopy/>

American College of Gastroenterology <https://gi.org/>

American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy <https://www.asge.org/>

American Gastroenterological Association <https://gastro.org/>