

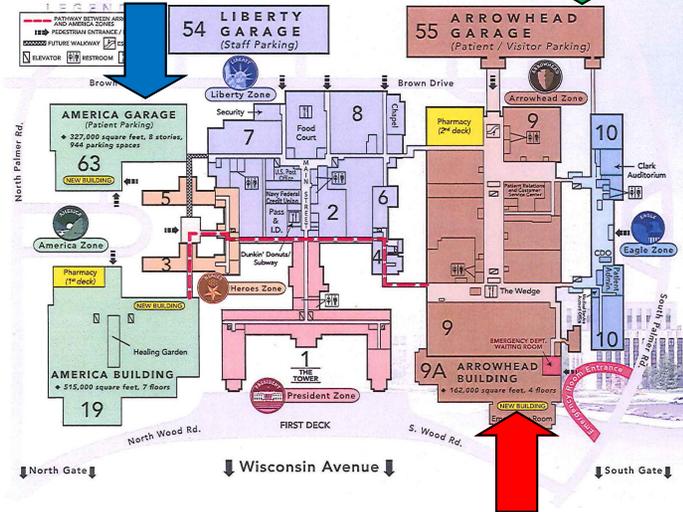


Virtual Colonography:

- Fast
- Convenient
- Sedative Free
- Safe
- Call us to schedule: 301-319-8876
- Visit: radiologyinfo.org/virtualct for more information.



Walter Reed
National Military
Medical Center



Location

The Virtual Colonography Service is located on the first floor in the Radiology Department within the Arrowhead Zone, Building 9. We are near the Emergency Room. See **RED** arrow on map.

Parking

Parking is located in the Arrowhead Garage, Building 55. See **GREEN** arrow on map. Alternate parking is in America Garage, Building 63. See **BLUE** arrow on map.

Virtual Colonography and Diagnostic Radiology

For appointments please call: **301-319-8876**
For more information, visit:
radiologyinfo.org/virtualct

Virtual Colonography

Colon cancer screening

Department of Radiology



Walter Reed
National Military
Medical Center

8901 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20889
Arrowhead Building
www.wrnmmc.capmed.mil

Virtual Colonography

Welcome to the Virtual Colonography Cancer Screening Service.

We are proud to offer you a highly sensitive, sedation-free, advanced screening program for colorectal cancer (cancer of the large intestine). The core of the virtual colonoscopy is the ultrafast, low radiation Computed Tomography (CT) scanner.

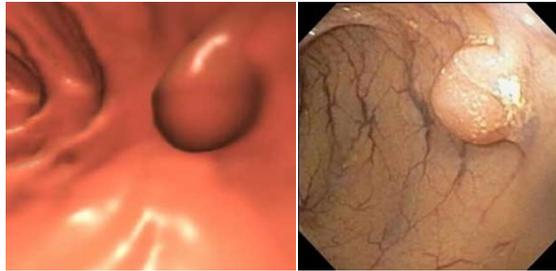
Virtual colonography is a CT scan that can produce three-dimensional (3D) and moving images of the colon. A team of experienced Board Certified Radiologists examine these images for colon cancer, precancerous polyps and other (incidental) findings.

The virtual colonography exam takes about 15 minutes to perform and is done without sedation. After the exam, you can return to your normal daily activities.

While the majority of patients (~90%) have a normal examination, screening for cancer is an important component in the comprehensive evaluation of your overall health. If a significant polyp is found, a regular colonoscopy will be performed at a later date to remove the polyp.

Why screen for colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Each year, about 140,000 people are diagnosed and 50,000 people die from colorectal cancer. Most colon cancers begin as small polyps on the inner lining of the colon. See below.



Virtual colonography can find these polyps when they are small and can also identify cancers when they are at an early stage. Virtual colonography can also detect cancers of other vital organs including, the kidney, lung, or lymph nodes in up to 1 in 200 patients. These and other incidental findings may require additional imaging tests.

Incidental finding: Early stage kidney cancer denoted by arrow.



Who should have a Virtual Colonography?

The American Cancer Society (ACS) and other medical organizations recommend that average risk patients begin screening at age 50. Virtual Colonography is an ACS recommended screening exam to be performed every five years for those at average risk. The virtual exam may also be an option if you are allergic to Versed, Demerol, Fentanyl, have had trouble with anesthesia, or have other medical problems that prevent sedation. Also, there is no need to stop anticoagulation medications.

What can I expect Before, During and After my Examination?

Bowel clearing is required to remove stool prior to the exam. A small flexible tube is placed in the rectum to gently inflate the colon with carbon dioxide. This gas is quickly absorbed by the body after the exam. Two scans are performed, one lying on your back, and the other on your side or stomach. Each takes about 20 seconds. You can then get dressed and resume normal activities.

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