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What is a colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy is a test performed to examine the mucosa (inner lining) of your colon and the most distal part of the small intestines. It is performed by a specialized physician who has received additional training.

Why is a colonoscopy done?

A colonoscopy can be done as a routine screening for colon and rectal cancer, to screen for diseases or malignancies for which you have a family history of, or for surveillance after previous history of cancer, polyps or colitis.

How common is colon cancer?

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Cancer usually develops from a precancerous lesion called adenomatous polyp or adenoma. Polyps are very common and can occur in more than 30% of the population 50 years or older.

Why is a colonoscopy important?

Colon cancer can be prevented in most patients with appropriate screening and surveillance. The destruction of polyps is directly related to cancer prevention. Colon cancer usually has no symptoms. Colon cancer, if discovered early, can be cured in most patients.

How is a colonoscopy done?

You need to take a laxative the day prior to your exam to cleanse your colon. The nurses at the endoscopy center will admit you and check your vital signs. Dr. Isaac will meet you in the room and ask you some questions before administering intravenous sedation. With the room lights down and in the presence of a specialized nurse in endoscopy, the procedure should take 15-30 minutes. You should be comfortable during the exam. Dr. Isaac will talk to you and your family once the procedure is completed. A letter will be sent to your primary care doctor and you will be contacted by a nurse regarding follow up instructions.

Please go to our Website www.drisaac.net for more information. Look for patient education and instructions.