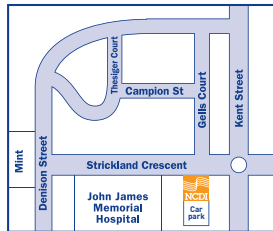


If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact our practices.



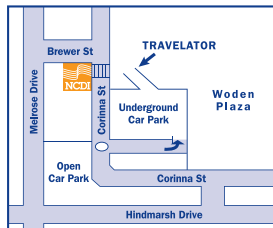
**Virtual Colonography is performed at Deakin:**



**CANBERRA SPECIALIST CENTRE**

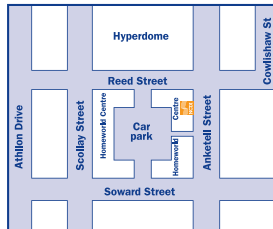
161 Strickland Crescent,  
Deakin ACT 2600  
Ph: 6124 1900

**Other NCDI sites:**



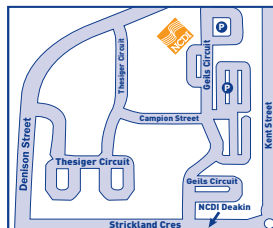
**CORINNA CHAMBERS**

36-38 Corinna St,  
Woden ACT 2606  
Ph: 6214 2222



**TUGGERANONG**

Suite 10a, Homeworld Centre  
Anketell Street,  
Tuggeranong ACT 2900  
Ph: 6293 2922



**GEILS COURT**

39 Geils Court,  
Deakin ACT 2600  
Ph: 6122 7878

**Please bring your referral and any previous x-rays with you on the day of your examination.**

# VIRTUAL COLONOGRAPHY



Virtual Colonography uses CT scanning to obtain an interior view of the colon (the large intestine)



# WHAT IS VIRTUAL COLONOGRAPHY?

**Virtual colonography** is a technique which creates a 3D model of the colon using a CT (Computed Tomography) scanner. Using sophisticated computer graphics, the model is stored on a computer disc and the colon is examined throughout its length without having to use an endoscopic instrument.

## PREPARATION

As with any examination of the colon, a clean, well-prepared bowel is important for accuracy and this is no different with virtual colonoscopy. For this reason, a full preparation is required. Separate instructions will be issued when you make your appointment.

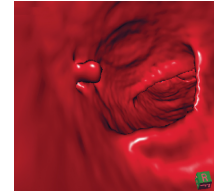
## PROCEDURE

No anaesthetic is required and this is an out-patient procedure. A small tube is inserted into the rectum and the colon is then distended with gas.

You will be asked to lie on a table which is moved into the centre of the scanner. This contains the x-ray tube and sensitive detectors. These rotate around you but will not touch you. The CT scanner makes a slight buzzing sound as it rotates. You may be asked to hold your breath for a short time during the scan. Two series of the images are obtained - one with you lying on your stomach and the other with you lying on your back.



Scan showing colon cancer



Picture of a virtual CT "fly through" shows a polyp developing inside the colon.

The data from these images is transferred to the computer disc for computer processing at a later stage. As much air as possible is evacuated from the colon and you will then be able to leave. There are no special precautions, although it is advisable not to drive a motor vehicle following the procedure.

The information will be constructed and a report issued the following day, with the data being available on a CD-ROM for your doctor to review.

## DO I HAVE TO HAVE AN INJECTION?

An injection of a muscle relaxant is made into an upper arm vein in order to relax the bowel for the duration of the examination.

## FOLLOWING THE PROCEDURE

There is an increased amount of gas within the colon which, after the relaxing agent ceases to have effect, will be expelled in a normal way.

## HOW LONG WILL THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

The procedure normally takes less than 1 hour.

## ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

You will be exposed to a small dose of x-rays, but it is usually unlikely to cause harmful effects.

You may experience temporary side effects after having the procedure - these will be explained to you by the radiographer.