

Following your Flexible Sigmoidoscopy

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at rduh.pals@nhs.net.

Following the procedure, you will be escorted to recovery, where you will be shown where to get dressed again. You will then be offered light refreshments. You may feel a little light headed or even faint following this procedure. If this is the case, we will ask you to rest on the trolley and wheel you back into recovery. A short while later you will then be shown where to get dressed again.

What will happen after my test?

During the flexible sigmoidoscopy, we may take some biopsies. These will be sent to the laboratory to be analysed by a pathologist. The results will either be sent to your GP or you will have an appointment in outpatients to discuss the results with a hospital doctor.

When can I eat and drink again?

You can eat and drink as normal, unless we give you specific instructions. Normal food can be taken after the examination, though you may prefer light meals initially.

When I am at home, what if I feel unwell after the procedure?

After the procedure you may or may not encounter any of the following conditions:

Bloating and excess wind: In order to visualise the bowel properly and make a thorough investigation it is necessary to inflate your bowel with air. This may give you some abdominal discomfort due to flatulence and “wind” type pain for a day or so. To help to relieve this, it is advisable to walk around and drink warm drinks. This will help you pass the wind. You may also find that lying on your left hand side, with your knees up, hot water bottle on your tummy, may also help to pass wind. Wind type pain is often relieved the instant it is passed.

Bleeding: During your procedure, you may have had some biopsies taken or some polyps removed. You may notice some traces of blood coming from your back passage, particularly when you open your bowels for the first time. This should settle down within 24 hours.

Fever: A temperature greater than 38 degrees is a sign that you could have developed an infection after your procedure. This is extremely rare but you should seek immediate medical advice for treatment.

However, if these conditions become excessive, persistent and or are accompanied by pain, please call for advice on the telephone numbers below

Medications

You may resume normal medications after your flexible sigmoidoscopy, unless advised otherwise.

If a polyp was removed, do not take aspirin for a week afterwards.

If you take blood thinning medications please restart them on.....

You may take stool softeners and fibre / bran but do not take strong laxatives.

When will I get the results

A nurse will speak to you before you leave the Gemini Endoscopy Suite and explain:

- What was seen and done during your procedure
- Whether you will need any further follow up
- A copy of your report will be sent to your GP today and any results should be with your GP within 2 weeks

What if I need further advice and assistance?

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are worried about any symptoms you experience after your procedure.

- In normal working hours Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm, telephone the Gemini Endoscopy Suite on 01271 349180
- Outside these hours contact your GP surgery or if in an emergency come to the North Devon District Hospital A&E
- Alternatively telephone NHS Direct on 111

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email rduh.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website www.careopinion.org.uk or freephone 0800 122 3135.

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