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## *Frequently Asked Questions about Colonoscopy*

### **Who should have a colonoscopy?**

If you are over 50 years old, or over 40 years old with a family history of colorectal polyps or cancer, you should have a screening colonoscopy.

### **What is the difference between a screening colonoscopy and a diagnostic colonoscopy?**

A screening colonoscopy is performed on someone who doesn't have any symptoms, but wants to learn if they have any pre-cancerous lesions in the colon.

A diagnostic colonoscopy is performed on someone who has symptoms of colorectal disease, or has had colorectal polyps or cancer in the past.

### **I heard the bowel prep is awful...I don't want to do it!**

Admittedly, cleaning out your colon is not the best way to spend an evening, but it is extremely important for a successful colonoscopy.

The bowel prep is really actually not that bad and it doesn't hurt. I always tell my patients to think of it as a "cleanse" and it will make it a little easier.

### **Does my insurance cover the procedure?**

In general, screening colonoscopy is covered as a preventative service. However, if polyps or other lesions are found, I do perform a biopsy and this may change your insurance carrier's opinion on what they will cover as preventive care.

It is always best to clarify this with your insurance carrier so you know what to expect for your out-of-pocket responsibility.