

COLONIC MANOMETRY

What is Colonic Manometry?

Your child's Gastroenterologist has recommended a colonic manometry test. The purpose of colonic manometry is to determine how well your child's colon works. The colon is also known as the large intestine. This is the site where stool is formed, stored and then pushed out. Manometry is the measurement of pressure or contractions in the large intestine. The test may be used to help doctors understand the reasons for symptoms in a number of digestive disorders.

Preparing for the procedure:

Your child will be admitted to the hospital the morning prior to the procedure for a bowel clean-out. On this day, your child will be given clear liquids starting with breakfast, and laxative preparation before the test. The clean out may be done orally or with a nasogastric tube (NG-tube). The tube will be used to assist those who have a hard time taking the laxative prep orally. If your child has a G-tube or GJ-tube, it will be used to give the laxative prep. Your child will have an intravenous line (IV) placed for the procedure to keep them hydrated.

During the procedure:

Your child will be taken to the operating room and placed under general anesthesia. The doctor will then place the tube (catheter) that will be used for the test. The catheter will be inserted through the anus and into the colon using a colonoscope. This is a hose-like tube with a light and camera at the end used to look at the colon. The colonoscope is then removed and the catheter is left in the colon.

After the procedure:

After the catheter is placed, your child will recover in the CARES unit for a short time, and then will be transferred to the Surgical Observation Unit. Here, your child will be hooked up to the manometry catheter, where the catheter will remain in place for 6-8 hours. The catheter will be secured in place with tape to your child's inner thigh. The tube is connected to a pump that will slowly push water into the tube and into your child's colon; this is a very small amount of water. This in turn, is connected to a computer. As your child's colon tightens around the tube, the flow of water stops, and the doctor is able to watch the activity of your child's colon on the computer.

What to expect:

For the remainder of the test, your child will be free to do any activities that he/she can do in bed. The test does not cause pain, but sometimes the child may have some cramping when medicines are given to stimulate the colon during the test. Sometimes a small amount of water may leak from your child's bottom during the test. Once the test is complete, the IV will be removed, the tape holding the tube will be removed, and the tube will be removed by the nurse.

After the test is complete:

Your child may return to a normal diet, play, and activities.

When to expect results:

You can expect to receive the results from the testing within one week.