

Imaging the Colon: A Brief Guide for Clinicians

1. Standard CT Virtual Colonoscopy

48 hours low residue diet
Ingest strong laxative (Picolax) day before exam

2. Faecal Tagged CT Virtual Colonoscopy *

Indication: If unable to tolerate a strong laxative or when previous bowel cleansing has been ineffective. All Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP) patients.

48 hours low residue diet
No Picolax
Ingest tagging agent (Omnipaque) day before exam which has a laxative effect, but less so compared with Picolax

**Faecal tagged CTC will be performed without iv Contrast in the following instances:*

*All BCSP patients (low dose study)
Colonic symptoms only (e.g. change of bowel habit without anaemia, weight loss or extracolonic symptoms)
Contraindications to IV contrast (e.g. impaired renal function)*

3. Same Day CT Virtual Colonoscopy

Indication: Following failed Optical Colonoscopy

30mls of Gastrograffin, followed by a 100ml fluid chaser at least 2 hours before Virtual Colonoscopy

4. Minimal Bowel Preparation Faecal Tagged CT Abdomen and Pelvis

Indication: For colonic imaging when CT colonoscopy is contraindicated or unsuitable e.g. the patient is frail or immobile

No dietary restrictions
No Picolax
Ingest small volume of tagging agent (Omnipaque) over 48 hours prior to the exam

