



Clarification on colonoscopy

Colonoscopy has been the standard test for decades for the detection and treatment of diseases of the lower digestive tract (particularly colorectal cancer) with very rare serious complications in a frequency of 1:10000 to 1:20000.

In very rare cases, despite all care – also due to the construction of the intestine with wrinkles – findings remain hidden.

Alternative methods:

If other methods are seriously considered for the examination, we will inform you about their advantages and disadvantages in the reconnaissance talks (as e.g. imaging methods such as X-ray, computed tomography, nuclear magnetic resonance imaging and ultrasound).

With these methods, however, the digestive tract can not be directly observed, no tissue samples can be taken and no treatment measures can be taken. In the case of a colonoscopy, exposure to X-rays does not apply. An alternative to the endoscopic ablation of polyps is a surgical procedure with the opening of the abdominal cavity and increased risk of intervention.

Risks and complications of colonoscopy:

The colonoscopy is performed millions of times a year worldwide and is generally low-risk.

Possible complications are injuries to the sphincter or the intestinal wall (perforation) through the endoscope, bleeding or injuries of internal organs. A perforation can lead to a life-threatening abdominal inflammation, that for further treatment measures (e.g. antibiotic treatment) may also require surgery. By the laxation solutions, medicines used can possibly have a limited absorption and effect. This also applies to the pill, the hormonal contraception.

Risks of sedatives / anesthesia administering:

Depending on the dose, there may very rarely be an impairment of the respiratory function by the anesthetic or sedative – in individual cases to the interruption of the respiratory and / or circulatory system, a displacement of the respiratory tract by gastric contents or to hypersensitivity reactions (allergies) to the drugs. At the point of puncture of the venous lingering cannula, it can rarely lead to pain / infections or extremely rarely to nerve damage.