Colon cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer related deaths in the United States. The American Cancer Society says that approximately 90% of all colorectal cases and deaths are thought to be preventable through lifestyle improvements and timely screening.

Virtual Colonoscopy information provided by

Advanced Medical Imaging
220 Kennedy Dr, Torrington, CT
860.489.7314
**What is Virtual Colonoscopy and who should have it?**

Advanced Medical Imaging offers Virtual Colonoscopy which utilizes multi-slice CT technology to examine the colon and rectum to detect cancers or precancerous polyps.

Virtual colonoscopy is recommended for both men and women over age 40 with a family history of colorectal cancer and for anyone over age 50 regardless of risk factors.

The best candidates for Virtual Colonoscopy screening are those who have had an incomplete colonoscopy, low-to-average risk patients who prefer not to have a colonoscopy, frail patients and patients who are unable to tolerate a colonoscopy.

**What are the advantages of having a Virtual Colonoscopy screening?**

- no sedation (patients can drive to and from work/home after the procedure)
- significantly lower risk of colonic perforation
- although appointment time is 30 minutes, all images are acquired in 30 seconds or less.

**Other things you should know about Virtual Colonoscopy screening:**

- As with conventional colonoscopy, virtual colonoscopy requires a bowel prep
- Virtual colonoscopy does not allow removal of tissue samples or polyps
- Medicare and some health insurance plans do not pay for virtual colonoscopy cancer screening

**What to expect during the Virtual Colonoscopy:**

Virtual Colonoscopy requires the placement of a small, narrow, flexible tube in the rectum. Carbon dioxide is then passed through the tube to expand the folds of the colon. You may experience mild temporary bloated discomfort, but should not feel any pain.

For your examination you will lie comfortably on your back/stomach on a padded table that will move through the scanner as the CT tube rotates around you. Depending on the reason for the study, you may receive an intravenous injection of “contrast” material.

You will be asked to remain as still as possible, which includes holding your breath for up to 20-25 seconds. You will be in the room for approximately 30 minutes. A large portion of this time is for discussion of the procedure and instructions.

**Preparation for a Virtual Colonoscopy**

During the day before the procedure, you will need to take a laxative and will be required to follow a restricted diet in order for the image of your colon to be as clear as possible.

**What to expect after the Virtual Colonoscopy:**

After the CT, you may return to your normal activities. One of our Radiologists will analyze the images and dictate a report, which will be sent to your physician.