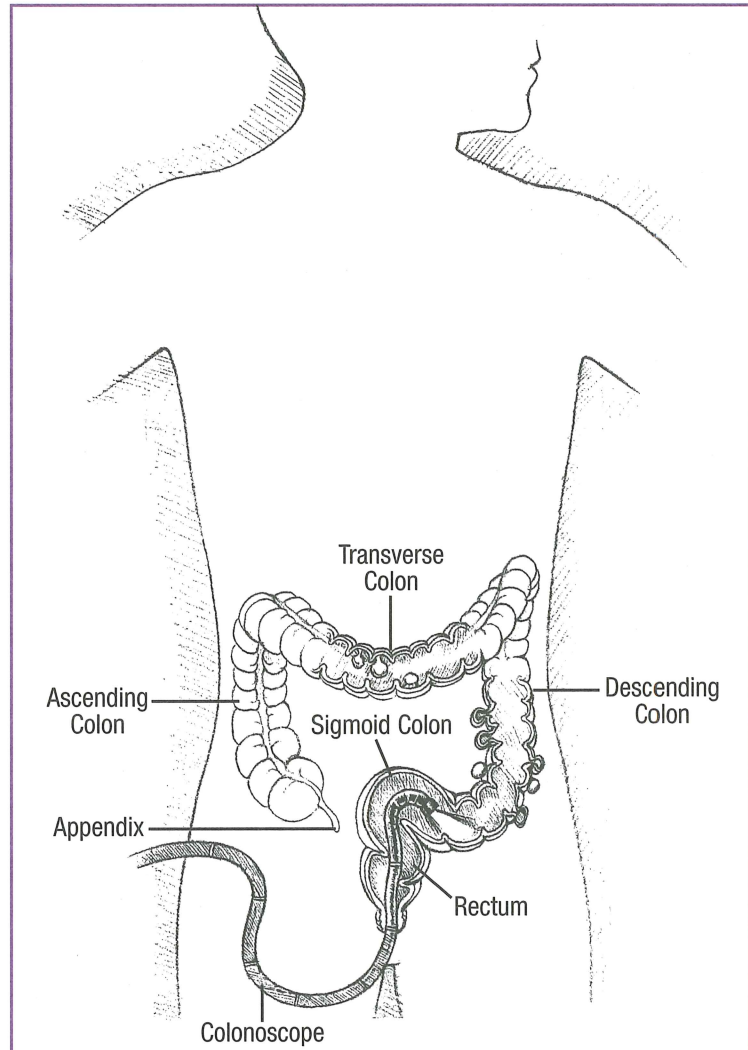
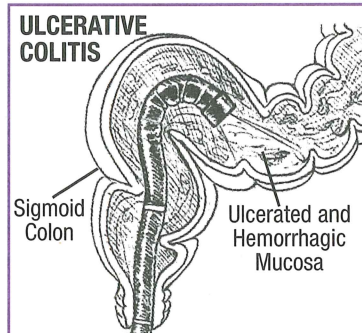
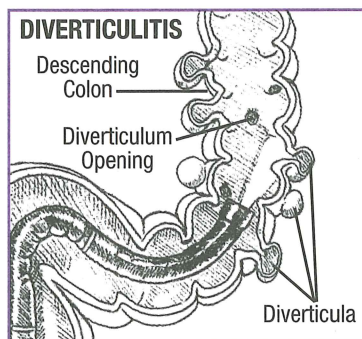
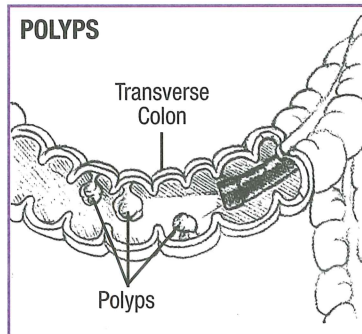


What happens during a

Colonoscopy?



A colonoscope is a flexible tube that is about a half inch in diameter and about four to five feet long. Light is carried down a fiberoptic bundle in the colonoscope, and an image comes back to a television monitor.

For examination of the colon, the patient is first given a bowel prep, which cleans the stool out of the colon. This is done the night before the procedure. Just prior to the procedure, the patient is sedated and the colonoscope is then gently passed through the rectum and the colon to the cecum, which is in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen. The whole colon lining can then be viewed and any abnormality may be identified. The physician may take a biopsy, remove a polyp, or take a photograph of the procedure through the colonoscope. Specimens obtained during the colonoscopy may be sent to the laboratory for special studies. The physician will advise the patient of the results of this procedure.

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