

Colorectal Diagnostic Assessment Program

R.S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre

Your doctor has referred you to the Colorectal Diagnostic Assessment Program (DAP). The DAP offers information and support while doctors decide if you have a colorectal cancer.

The term colorectal refers to both your colon and rectum. The colon and the rectum form part of your digestive system, also called the gastrointestinal or GI system.

A nurse navigator from the Colorectal DAP will call you within 48 hours after receiving the referral from your doctor. This telephone appointment will be about 30 minutes. During this telephone appointment a nurse navigator will:

- Review your medical history
- Explain the next steps in your care
- Answer any questions you have.

It can be hard to wait for appointments and test results. It is normal to feel worried or upset. A nurse navigator will make sure your tests and appointments are booked as soon as possible.

Calling the Colorectal DAP nurse navigator

- Call 905-576-8711 extension 32346, Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.
- Your call will be returned within 24 to 48 business hours.

Tests you may have

Below is a list of tests your gastroenterologist or surgeon may want you to have. A gastroenterologist is a doctor who specializes in the throat, stomach and intestines. You may not need all of the tests listed below. A nurse navigator can answer your questions or concerns about these tests.

Blood tests

Blood tests can tell your doctor how well your body organs and digestive system are working. A common blood test is a CEA (Carcinoembryonic antigen). The CEA test is used to help diagnose a colorectal cancer.

Colonoscopy

A colonoscopy is performed using a colonoscope; a thin, bendable tube with a tiny video camera at one end. The doctor will place this through your anus up into your colon. It allows the doctor to see inside your colon, take small pieces of tissue for

biopsy, or remove small growths known as polyps. Medications will be given to you through an intravenous line (IV) to help you relax and keep you comfortable

CT Scan (Computerized Axial Tomography)

A CT scan is a test that uses x-rays and computer technology to take detailed pictures of your organs and bones.

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

MRI uses a powerful magnetic field and computer generated radio waves to create a detailed picture of your organs, soft tissues and bones.

Your doctor(s) will talk with you about the results of your tests. These test results will help you and your doctors plan the next steps in your care and treatment. Once decisions for this plan are made, the role of the Colorectal DAP is finished.

If you are diagnosed with a colorectal cancer, more information and support is available from:

Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre

- Offers information, support and wellness programs for men, women and children.
- Located at 86 Colborne St. W., Oshawa. Parking is free.
- For more information, call 905-579-4833 or go to the website at
www.hearthplace.org

Colorectal Cancer Canada

- Offers information and peer support.
- For more information, call 1-877-502-6566 or go to the website at
www.colorectalcancercanada.com

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