

# Macrogol

Other names: Lax-sachets, Movicol

## Colonoscopy - morning procedure



### Important note

Please read all instructions at least 2 days before your colonoscopy procedure.

### Preparation for your colonoscopy

A colonoscopy is an examination of the bowel using a narrow flexible telescope. It is an important examination used for the diagnosis and treatment of bowel conditions. To get good views of the bowel lining, the bowel must be completely empty. So you need to take a strong laxative containing macrogol. You will need 8 sachets.

### Medications

Medication	What to do
Iron tablets (e.g. ferrous sulphate, Ferrogradumet)	Stop them one (1) week before your procedure
Aspirin, Cartia, clopidogrel (Plavix), warfarin or any other anti-coagulant tablets	Please tell the nurse or doctor beforehand
If you are diabetic	Please tell the nurse or doctor beforehand as there are special instructions for diabetics
All other usual medicines	You can take all other usual medications 4 hours before starting or 4 hours after completing the macrogol mixture to allow for absorption

### Things to do prior to your appointment

**Because a sedative is used it is very important you DO NOT drive or operate machinery or dangerous appliances, on the day of the procedure**

Organise a family member or friend to drop you at the hospital and collect you afterwards. A responsible adult will need to stay with you overnight after your procedure. Please inform the Day Surgery Unit at the hospital (on 878 8109, ext 6570 or 6572, weekdays) as soon as possible if you cannot do this, as we may have to arrange a new date for your procedure.

## Two days before your procedure

Begin a low fibre diet.

### You must stop eating

- All fruit and food containing fruit
- Yogurt, yellow cheese, nuts or seeds
- Meat, brown bread, cereals and vegetables

### You may eat

- Boiled or poached eggs, cottage cheese and white bread
- Steamed fish, boiled chicken, well-cooked and peeled potato and pumpkin
- Clear jelly and skim milk

Drink clear fluids only. Approved clear fluids include

- water
- clear (strained) fruit juice without the pulp (like apple, white grape, orange)
- black tea or coffee (no milk)
- carbonated and non-carbonated soft drinks e.g. Lucozade, Powerade, ginger ale, lemonade
- plain jelly (no added fruits or toppings – **not** red or purple colours)
- clear fruit cordials (clear lemon, clear lime – **not** red or purple colours)
- clear soup or broth
- clear bouillon
- clear ice blocks (no added fruit or solid bits – **not** red or purple colours)

It is important not to drink red or purple coloured fluids

## The day before your procedure

1. Drink only clear fluids for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
2. **Some time during the day** add the contents of all 8 macrogol sachets to 1 litre (1,000mL) of water and put this in the fridge to chill.
3. **4.00pm (afternoon)**
  - Start drinking the macrogol mixture.
  - Aim to drink 1-2 glasses (125 to 250mL) every 20-30 minutes until completed.
  - Some people find it easier to drink if they add a flavour such as lime or ginger cordial.
  - Complete clearance of the bowel may take 6 hours, so do not worry if you are not clear by the end of the mixture.
4. **During the evening before going to bed**
  - Drink at least 4 more 250mL glasses of clear fluids before going to bed. More if you want.

People respond to laxatives in different ways. Macrogol mixture may cause many bowel movements. It may work as quickly as 30 minutes, or it may take as long as 5 hours. Please keep within easy reach of a toilet.

If you are diabetic chose appropriate clear fluids from the list above and monitor your blood sugar levels regularly.

Clear fluids are encouraged. During your preparation it is important to drink plenty of clear fluids. **You must drink at least six (6) litres of clear fluids to make sure your bowel is clean, or your procedure may have to be abandoned.** If you have a dry mouth, headache or feel dehydrated, drink more clear fluids or water.

## **On the day of your procedure**

- Clear fluids only. Do not eat anything until after your procedure.
- Stop all fluids at least 1 hour before your appointment.
- Arrive for your colonoscopy at the scheduled time (as advised when you phone in).

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor, or phone the Day Surgery Unit at the hospital on 878 8109 ext 6570 or 6572, weekdays**