

CT Colonography Bowel Preparation & Diet Sheet

(Generic Laxative & Omnipaque® Protocol)

It is essential that you read this information and follow the instructions prior to your test. The success of this test depends on your colon (large bowel) being as empty as possible. If the colon is not adequately cleansed the test may have to be repeated.

You must contact the Rowlands Outpatient Pharmacy on 0203 447 3082 to organise collection / delivery of your Bowel Preparation. Location: Ground Floor UCLH, 235 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BU. Weekdays: 9am-7pm, Weekends: 9am-1pm

If you are unable to complete the preparation as instructed, please contact the Imaging Department before attending your appointment on the number above.

From the pharmacy at UCLH you will find:

- **Two sachets of laxatives** (Both sachets are the same). Laxatives are used to cleanse your colon prior to your test
- **One 50ml bottle of Omnipaque®**. Omnipaque® improves the scan quality and contains iodine.

Please note: The bottle of Omnipaque® states "X-ray contrast medium For intravenous, intra-arterial and body cavity use". **It is safe to be taken orally.**

 If you have been told that you are allergic to X-ray dye (contrast), which contains iodine, then call us before going any further  07929875241

3 Days before your test:

Stop any iron tablets, but continue to take all other medications and laxatives you usually take.

2 Days before your test:

Eat only low fibre foods, which includes the following:

- Milk (2 cups per day), plain yoghurt, cheese, butter, margarine.
- White fish or chicken (boiled, steamed or grilled).
- Eggs, tofu, white pasta, white rice, white bread.
- Potatoes with no skin (e.g. mashed, boiled).
- Clear soups (no solid bits e.g. sieved chicken noodle), Bovril, Oxo.
- Clear jelly, boiled sweets, ice cream, chocolate (no fruit or nut pieces).
- Salt, pepper, sugar, sweeteners and honey.

Have plenty to drink throughout the day:

- Water, tea, coffee, squash, fizzy drinks, clear fruit juices (e.g. apple/ cranberry).

Do not eat high fibre foods, such as:

- Red meat, pink fish (e.g. salmon)
- Fruit, vegetables, salad, mushrooms, sweetcorn.
- Cereals, nuts, seeds, pips, bran, beans, lentils.
- Brown bread, brown or wild rice, brown pasta.
- Pickles, chutneys.



The day before your test:



Diabetic patients only:

- Check blood sugar four times during the day
- If at any point your blood sugar is below 5, drink clear sugary liquids to avoid a 'hypo'.



07:30 - 09:00

- Dissolve the content of **ONE** sachet in a cup of cold tap water (approx. 150mls).
- Stir for 2-3 minutes & drink the solution.



If the solution becomes too hot, wait until it cools before drinking.



Breakfast (about 08:30)

- You may have 1 cup of tea/ coffee if you wish.
- **Eat only low fibre foods** (see list on Page 1).

Example breakfast:
1-2 boiled eggs & a piece of white bread/toast with low fat spread.



Diabetic patients only:

Take insulin/ diabetic tablets with your breakfast



After Breakfast

- You may have 1 cup of tea/ coffee if you wish.
- **Drink one large glass (half pint) of water or clear drink every 30-40 mins.**



Do not eat anything until lunchtime.



Lunch (about 12:30)

- Have a light lunch.
- **Eat only low fibre foods** (see list on Page 1).

Example lunch:
Boiled or grilled (not fried) fish/ chicken, clear soup/ bovril and any other clear drinks.



Do not eat bread, potatoes, fruit or vegetables.



After lunch

- **Drink one large glass (half pint) of water or clear drink every 30-40 mins.**



15:00 – 15:30

- Dissolve the content of the **SECOND** sachet in a cup of cold tap water (approx. 150mls).
- Stir for 2-3 minutes & drink the solution.




If the solution becomes too hot, wait until it cools before drinking.

16:00 – 19:00

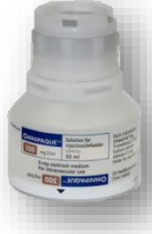
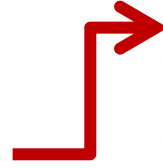
- You may have 1 cup of tea/ coffee if you wish.
- **Drink one large glass (half pint) of water or clear drink every 30-40 mins.**



 **Dinner (between 19:00 – 21:00)**

- No solid food - you may drink clear soup
-  Do not eat anything until after your examination.


Drink **half** of the 50ml bottle of Omnipaque® now (approx. 25mls).



 **After dinner & throughout the night**

- Clear fluids of any type may be taken regularly before midnight.
- Drink as much water as required after midnight.



 **Diabetic patients only:**

Reduce your insulin dose by half, continue your diabetic tablets as normal.



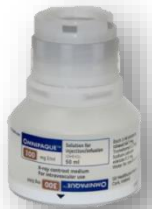
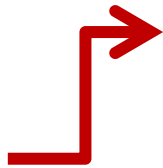
- You should expect frequent bowel movements to start a few hours after taking the first sachet of laxative. Some associated abdominal cramping is normal.
- Laxatives are designed to cleanse the bowel and will cause loose movements similar to diarrhoea.
- You will need to ensure you are near a toilet during this time.
- To prevent soreness, you may apply Vaseline or a barrier cream locally after each bowel action.



The day of the test:

 Do not eat anything until after your test.

- **Drink the remaining 25mls of the bottle of Omnipaque® at 7am or earlier**



You may continue to drink clear fluids until 2 hours before your appointment.



Diabetic patients only:

If you have a **Morning** appointment:

- Continue to drink clear sugary fluids.
- DO NOT take anymore insulin/ diabetes tablets until after the test.
- Check blood sugar if you can before arriving at the hospital.
- Bring insulin/ diabetic tablets and a light meal (e.g. sandwich) with you to the hospital to have after the test.

If you have a **Afternoon** appointment:

- Continue to drink clear sugary fluids.
- Take **half** your normal dose of insulin in the **morning** only.
- **Do not** take diabetes tablets.
- Check blood sugar if you can in the morning and before arriving at the hospital.
- Bring insulin/ diabetic tablets and a light meal (e.g. sandwich) with you to the hospital to have after the test.



- Bowel preparation can be harmful, although this is unusual.
- There is a risk of developing dehydration, low blood pressure or kidney problems with this medication.
- The doctor prescribing the oral cleansing agent will have assessed your risk and identified the most appropriate medication for you.
- You should refer to the manufacturer's instructions when taking your preparation, however the following rules do apply:

The prescribed dose of oral cleansing agent should not be exceeded & should not be taken over a period longer than 24 hours.



Oral medication should not be taken within one hour of administration of bowel cleansing agent as it may not be absorbed.

Due to the risk of dehydration it is important to maintain good fluid intake whilst taking these medications. If you develop symptoms of dehydration, such as dizziness, thirst or reduced urine, please seek medical attention.

Additional side effects include:

- **Nausea, vomiting, bloating, abdominal pain, anal irritation and sleep disturbance.**
- **Allergic reactions (such as rash, itchiness, redness and swelling) – these should be reported.**

People who are particularly at risk of dehydration and loss of salts include the frail elderly, children, people with renal (kidney) impairment, cardiac (heart) failure, liver cirrhosis & those taking water tablets (diuretics).