

# Virtual Colonoscopy



a family of healing partners  
*A Division of Heartland Clinic, LLC*

545 Valley View Drive  
Moline, IL 61265

4480 Utica Ridge Road, Suite 2240  
Bettendorf, IA 52722

309.762.5560 phone  
309.762.7351 fax

[www.GastroConsultantsQC.com](http://www.GastroConsultantsQC.com)

Virtual colonoscopy is an exam used to detect changes or abnormalities in the large intestine (colon) and rectum.

During virtual colonoscopy, an imaging technique known as computerized tomography (CT) is used to produce hundreds of cross-sectional images of the abdominal organs. The images are combined and digitally manipulated to provide a detailed view of the inside of the colon and rectum. Unlike traditional colonoscopy, virtual colonoscopy doesn't require sedation or the insertion of a scope into the colon.

## **When is Virtual Colonoscopy used?**

Virtual colonoscopy is one option used to screen for colon cancer and often can be used when a colonoscopy cannot be safely completed due to a variation in the person's colon anatomy and concern for a higher risk of a perforation or when the risk of sedation is very high due to underlying medical conditions. One significant drawback of a virtual colonoscopy is that polyps cannot be removed and if they are noted a colonoscopy is required for polyp removal. Discuss your colon cancer screening options with your doctor to determine whether virtual colonoscopy is the right option for you.

Virtual colonoscopy is available on-site at Gastroenterology Consultants.