

# SUFLAVE (THE LONG STORY)

## ONE WEEK BEFORE THE PROCEDURE

### What do I need to do ONE WEEK before the procedure?

- **Arrange transportation for your procedure from an ADULT DRIVER THAT YOU KNOW.** This cannot be a taxi or rideshare.
- **If you take BLOOD THINNERS:**
  - Contact the prescribing physician to determine how to take your medication before and after your procedure.
  - Please do not assume that you can safely follow the same medication adjustments that have been made for your previous procedures.
  - These medications include:
    - Coumadin (warfarin)
    - Plavix (clopidogrel)
    - Brilinta (ticagrelor)
    - Effient (prasugrel)
    - Xarelto (rivaroxaban)
    - Eliquis (apixaban)
    - Pradaxa (dabigatran)
    - Savaysa (edoxaban)
    - Lovenox (enoxaparin)
    - Arixtra (fondaparinux)
    - Aggrenox (dipyridamole/aspirin)
    - Persantine (dipyridamole)
    - Ticlid (ticlopidine)
- **If you take ASPIRIN:**
  - If you are taking aspirin recommended by one of your doctors, please **CONTINUE** to take it.
  - If you do not have a heart, blood vessel, or clotting disorder and you are taking aspirin on your own without a doctor's advice, please stop taking aspirin 5 days before the procedure.
  - If you take other anti-inflammatories, such as ibuprofen, advil, motrin, or aleve, you may continue to do so unless otherwise advised by your physician.
- **Stop taking IRON, CHARCOAL, and PEPTO BISMOL.**
- **If you take PHENTERMINE:**
  - Please hold medication for 7 days prior to procedure date.



- **Please make adjustments to your medications as noted below if you use the following MEDICATIONS FOR DIABETES OR WEIGHT MANAGEMENT (oral or injectable):**

- Tirzepatide (Mounjaro, Zepbound)

If you take a diabetes or weight loss medication named Tirzepatide (MOUNJARO or ZEPBOUND), which is similar to the medications listed below but stronger, please schedule a pre-procedural visit with one of our providers to review medication adjustments.

- Semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy, Rybelsus)
- Dulaglutide (Trulicity)
- Exenatide (Byetta, Bydureon)
- Liraglutide (Victoza, Saxenda)
- Lixisenatide (Adlyxin)

If you inject one of the above medications WEEKLY, make certain that you have not had a dose of your medication in the 7 days prior to your procedure. If you take your medication DAILY, do not take the medication on the day of your procedure.

Any patient that does not follow these recommendations will be screened for GI symptoms (such as nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain). If present, you will be treated as having a "full stomach", which may require rescheduling per anesthesia's discretion to ensure safety and reduce complications during your procedure.

If you take any medications listed above and have questions, we suggest that you schedule a pre-procedural visit with one of our providers to help with any adjustments that may be needed.

**NOTE:** If you have not held these medications for 7 days prior to procedure, please contact Mobile Anesthesia Nurse Pre-op Line at 773-756-5844 to determine if it is okay to proceed with anesthesia.



**COMPREHENSIVE**  
GASTROINTESTINAL HEALTH

## ONE WEEK BEFORE THE PROCEDURE

- **What if I have a tendency toward CONSTIPATION?**
  - You can consider purchasing Miralax OTC (an over the counter laxative) and take 1-2 capfuls mixed in 8 oz. of fluid daily during the week prior to the procedure. This may help in clearing out a more constipated colon.
  - It seems counterintuitive but avoiding high fiber/ high residue foods for the entire week prior to the procedure can help achieve the optimal preparation (see detailed list below, especially seeds!).
  - You can also consider extending the time you drink clear liquids only for two days prior to the procedure.
  - If your constipation is significant, you may drink one 10 oz. liquid bottle of lemon flavored magnesium citrate TWO nights before the procedure is scheduled (no prescription needed). If you have kidney disease, magnesium citrate should not be used unless approved by your doctor.
  - If you have had a prior colonoscopy and your preparation quality was not optimal enough for the doctor to examine your colon carefully, you are encouraged to schedule a brief consultation with one of our providers. They can help determine the best preparation for you to try to ensure the highest quality examination.
- **What if I am worried that I will have NAUSEA when I have to drink the preparation?**
  - Please call the office and request a prescription for an anti-nausea medication.



## THREE DAYS BEFORE PROCEDURE

### What do I need to do THREE DAYS before the procedure?

- Pick up the PREPARATION SOLUTION from the pharmacy.
- Purchase any CLEAR LIQUIDS OR LOW RESIDUE FOODS you might want for the next few days leading up to the procedure (see detailed lists below).
- Also, consider purchasing baby wipes with aloe, petroleum-based topical product, or diaper rash ointment to help with skin irritation during the preparation.
- Begin to AVOID HIGH RESIDUE FOODS for the next three days:
  - Seeds
    - Flax seeds
    - Chia seeds
    - Poppy seeds
    - Fennel seeds
  - Popcorn
  - Nuts
  - Whole grains or high fiber grains
    - Brown or wild rice
    - Whole grain bread, rolls, pasta, or crackers
    - Whole grain/high fiber cereal (including granola, raisin bran, oatmeal)
    - Bread or cereal with nuts or seeds
  - Legumes
    - Beans
    - Lentils
    - Dried peas, beans, or lentils
  - Fruit
    - Raw fruit with seeds, skin, or membranes
    - Any cooked or canned fruit with seeds or skin
    - Raisins or other dried fruits
- Avoidance of seed and nuts is especially important if you have a history of constipation or poor bowel preparation on a prior procedure. Avoiding high residue foods for the entire week before the procedure is optimal.
  - Vegetables
    - Asparagus
    - Mushrooms
    - Corn
    - Potatoes with skin
    - Tomatoes
    - Cucumbers
    - Cabbage
    - Brussels sprouts
    - Green peas
    - Summer and winter squash
    - Lima beans
    - Onions
  - Other
    - Soups with vegetables or legumes
    - Salad dressing with seeds or nuts
    - Pickles
    - Olives
    - Coconut
    - Stone ground mustard
  - These high fiber foods can make the procedure more challenging and lower quality. Please make every effort to avoid them in the 3 days before your procedure.
    - If you do accidentally eat a high fiber food, it is not necessary to contact us or cancel/postpone the procedure.
    - It is possible that these solid foods will remain in the colon, which could block our ability to see the lining underneath and carefully inspect the colon for polyps. This could mean that you could be recommended to come back for a follow-up exam at a shorter interval.



**NOTE: SEEDS ARE THE ENEMY OF A HIGH-QUALITY COLONOSCOPY PREPARATION!**  
Seeds can sneak into granola, cereals, bread products, or crackers—read the ingredient list carefully and avoid!

# DAY BEFORE THE PROCEDURE

## What foods can I eat BEFORE 2 P.M.?

- For **BREAKFAST and LUNCH ONLY** (before 2 p.m.) you may have **LOW RESIDUE FOODS** — nothing that crunches in your mouth!!

- Dairy
  - Cheese
  - Cottage cheese
  - Yogurt
  - Milk
- Protein
  - Eggs
  - Chicken
  - Turkey
  - Pork
  - Fish
  - Shrimp
  - Tofu



- Bread and grains (less than 2 grams of fiber per serving)
  - White bread or bagels (NO whole grain or any seeds)
  - White pasta (NO whole grain)
  - White rice (NO brown or wild rice)
- Condiments
  - Creamy peanut or almond butter (NO crunch)
  - Butter or margarine
  - Vegetable oil or other oils
  - Mayonnaise or sour cream
- Dessert
  - Ice cream
  - Pudding
  - Sherbet/sorbet (NO pieces of fruit or seeds)
  - Cookies or cake made with white flour and NO seeds, fruit, or nuts
- No alcohol

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND SAMPLE MENUS, PLEASE REFERENCE THE "LOW RESIDUE DIET OPTIONS"

## What can I have to eat/drink for the REST OF THE DAY?

- You can have a **CLEAR LIQUID** diet for the rest of the day (after 2 p.m.).

- Water
- Coffee (no milk or cream)
- Tea (no milk or cream)
- Fruit juice without pulp (lemonade, orange, apple, white grape, white cranberry)
- Gatorade, Propel, or PowerAde
- Carbonated beverages (soda or sparkling water)
- Crystal Light or Kool-aid (or other fruit flavored beverages)
- Popsicles or Italian ice (without any pieces of real fruit)
- Jell-O (lemon, lime, or orange; no fruit toppings)
- Clear soup, broth, or bouillon
- Hard candies (Jolly Ranchers, Life Savers, lemon drops) or Gummi Bears

- Please **NO RED or PURPLE** liquids!

- If the remaining liquid in your colon is tinted red or purple, it can be confused for bleeding.
- If you do accidentally drink a red or purple liquid, it is not necessary to contact us or cancel/postpone the procedure.

- **As a rule, if you can see through it, you can drink it.**
- **Smoothies and protein shakes are NOT considered clear liquids. Examples of these include Ensure, Kate Farms, Premier Protein and Orgain.**



# DAY BEFORE THE PROCEDURE

## How much of these clear liquids should I drink?

- Your body will lose a significant amount of fluid during the bowel preparation. To prevent dehydration, drink as much fluid as you can before, during, and after consuming the preparation solution.
- Drink at least 8 ounces of fluid each hour you are awake on the day you are undergoing your prep (preferably an electrolyte rich liquid like Gatorade or Propel, but if you don't care for the taste, water is fine too).

MAKE SURE TO PUT THE SUPREP AND THE CLEAR LIQUIDS YOU PLAN ON MIXING IT WITH INTO THE REFRIGERATOR SO THAT THEY ARE CHILLED WHEN IT IS TIME TO DRINK THE SOLUTION.

## REMINDER:

- To have a successful colonoscopy your colon must be clear of any stool. This allows your doctor to see your entire colon.
- For your doctor, a "clean colon is like driving on a country road on a sunny day. A dirty colon is like driving in a snowstorm."
- It is extremely important to follow these preparation instructions to clear your colon of any stool.
- Failure to follow these instructions limits the value of this procedure. Your exam may need to be rescheduled or you may need to come back at a shorter interval.



vs.



## What if I have DIABETES?

- Schedule your procedure for the morning if possible.
- If you control your diabetes with ORAL medications alone:
  - Take your normal medication dose in the morning on the day prior to your procedure.
    - Do NOT take any more diabetes medications until after the procedure is complete and you have eaten.
- If you control your diabetes with INSULIN alone:
  - For a colonoscopy, take ½ of your normal insulin dose the day before the procedure.
    - Do NOT take any more diabetes medications until after the procedure is complete and you have eaten.
- If you control your diabetes with BOTH INSULIN and ORAL medications:
  - Follow both sets of instructions as above.
- If you utilize an INSULIN PUMP:
  - Please contact your endocrinologist for specific instructions.
- Check your blood sugar frequently while drinking the preparation solution and on the morning of your procedure.



## DRINKING THE PREPARATION

- **At 6:00 p.m. the evening before the procedure:**

- Add water up to the 1 Liter line on the container and mix together.
  - Drink all of the mixed solution in the container within one hour.
- Drink at least 32 oz of a clear liquid beverage over the hour following completion of the prep solution. This will help flush the solution through your system.
- After that, remember to continue drinking at least 8 oz. of fluid each hour you are awake.

- **4 hours before you plan on leaving for your procedure:**

- Add water up to the 1 Liter line on the container and mix together.
  - Drink all of the mixed solution in the container within one hour.
- Then drink at least 32 oz of a clear liquid.
  - You **MUST FINISH** the final glass of clear liquid **AT LEAST THREE HOURS BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE!**

- **3 hours before your scheduled procedure time:**

- Absolutely nothing more to eat or drink!

- **40 minutes before your scheduled procedure time:**

- Check in at **40 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 110, in Northbrook** or **950 Technology Way, Suite 250, in Libertyville.**

**NOTE:** Some people are tempted to alter this recommended timing to try to “start early” or optimize their sleep schedule. Please do NOT make adjustments in the timing unless recommended by our office, as completing the preparation too early can lead to a suboptimal preparation, lower the quality of the examination, and make it necessary to have a repeat test performed sooner.

- **Why?**

Even if you aren't eating, your small intestine is still making a thick liquid called “chyme” which travels into the colon and blocks the ability to see the lining carefully. This can limit the careful examination of the colon lining, especially for a type of precancerous polyp called serrated polyps.

SEE PAGE 7 FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE DAY OF THE PROCEDURE.



# DRINKING THE PREPARATION

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DRINKING THE PREPARATION

- **How can I make drinking the preparation less gross tasting?**
  - Keep the solution as COLD as possible.
  - Consider a citrus flavored clear liquid beverage to mix with the prep solution, as Suflave attempts to have a "citrus" flavor.
    - Consider not using your favorite beverage — you may have a negative association after pairing it with the colonoscopy prep.
  - Drink the prep through a straw placed far back on your tongue.
  - Consider holding your nose (or holding a lemon or lime under your nose while you drink).
  - Suck on a lemon, lime, or tart hard candy after drinking the prep solution.
    - Another option is to chew a piece of gum or gargle mouthwash to "clear out" the bad taste.
- **How long until the preparation starts working?**
  - Individual response to the preparation medications varies from person to person. Some people will begin to have multiple urgent bowel movements within 30 minutes of drinking the solution and others may not have a bowel movement for about 6 hours.
  - We would encourage everyone to stay within close range of a bathroom after beginning to drink the preparation.
  - If you have not had any bowel movements in 6 hours, have a family member or friend pick up Miralax and Dulcolax. Take three Dulcolax tablets and drink 12 oz. of water with three capsules of Miralax dissolved in it.
- **What if I feel nauseated or I vomit during the preparation?**
  - Feelings of nausea, bloating, or chills are common during the preparation process. These feelings are temporary and tend to improve after bowel movements begin.
  - If the nausea is significant or if you do vomit, STOP the preparation for 30-60 minutes.
  - Restart the preparation when your nausea subsides and drink the remaining preparation at a slower pace. This may mean that you are awake later into the night doing the preparation, but that is preferable to vomiting and losing any progress you have made.
  - If you vomit the preparation, switch to a Miralax prep. For more details, please reference the "MIRALAX PREP LONG STORY" on our website [www.compgihealth.com](http://www.compgihealth.com): select the PROCEDURES tab and then click on + COLONOSCOPY.
- **What if I have taken all of the preparation and my stools are still formed/solid with only 2 hours to go before I have to leave for my procedure?**
  - You may use a saline enema or tap water enema to help clear out residual stool.
  - These items can be purchased from Amazon, Walgreens, CVS, or Target.
- **How can I prevent irritation around the anal area?**
  - Consider purchasing baby wipes with aloe for wiping (and/or the softest toilet paper that money can buy).
  - Pat yourself clean with toilet paper or baby wipes (rather than wiping or rubbing).
  - You may apply a petroleum based product or diaper rash ointment to the affected area and nearby skin to reduce discomfort from frequent stools.
  - If you have a history of discomfort from hemorrhoids, buy some Preparation H, Tucks pads, or witch hazel to use, as well.



# DAY OF PROCEDURE

## • Can I have anything to eat or drink today?

- You may have the same clear liquids as indicated on page 4 for up to three hours before the procedure.
- Do not have anything at all to eat or drink in the three hours before your procedure is scheduled!
- It is critical that your stomach is empty prior to receiving sedation for the procedure.
- If there are solids or liquids in your stomach when you are sedated, they could be accidentally inhaled. This is called aspiration. Aspiration can cause significant lung injury.

## • What about my medications?

- If you take medications for HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, IRREGULAR HEART BEAT, SEIZURES, ASTHMA, THYROID, or PREDNISONE:
  - Please take your medication with a sip of water the morning of your procedure.

## • What should I bring?

- The first and last names of all doctors you would like us to send a copy of procedure report
- Someone over 18 years old to drive you home
  - Sedation is given during the procedure and although you may feel clear headed, your abilities are impaired.
  - If you have not arranged for someone to drive you home, your procedure will be canceled. Taxi and rideshares (Uber, Lyft) are NOT considered a safe option.
  - You will not be able to drive, operate machinery, make any important or legal decisions, or return to work for the rest of the day.
- Your insurance cards
  - If you have specific questions about coverage for your upcoming procedure, please contact your insurance company.
  - Special note: although your upcoming colonoscopy may be scheduled as a screening procedure, if during the course of your screening the physician removes a polyp or performs a tissue biopsy, the procedure may be considered diagnostic and may not qualify for coverage as a screening service.
    - Insurance company policies vary regarding these matters and we encourage you to contact your insurance company to obtain their policy.
- Your medication list

## • What should I wear?

- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing that is easy to step into.
- Wear flat shoes.
- Do not wear jewelry or bring valuables.
- You may wear makeup, but please no fragrances or body lotion.
- You may wear contact lenses if you are able to take a 60 minute nap with your contacts in place.

## • How long will I be there?

- Every effort will be made to keep your appointment at the scheduled time, but in medicine, unexpected delays and emergencies may occur and your wait time may be prolonged. We give each patient the attention needed for his or her procedure.
- Typically we run on schedule, and the duration from the time of drop-off until you leave to go home runs approximately 2 hours.

## • What should I expect after I arrive?

- After the administrative check in, a nurse will ask questions to ensure that you understand the procedure and the reason it is planned.
- The nurse will start an intravenous line (insert a needle into a vein in the hand or arm — feels similar to having blood drawn) to administer medications.
- The vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, and blood oxygen level) will be monitored before, during, and after the examination.
  - The monitoring is not painful, though the first time the blood pressure cuff inflates it can be uncomfortable for 20-30 seconds.

**Do not have ANYTHING at all to eat or drink in the three hours before your procedure is scheduled!**





# DAY OF PROCEDURE

- **What happens in the procedure room?**

- Vital sign monitors will be placed and your blood pressure will be checked again before starting the sedating medications.
- All patients will be given oxygen during the examination through plastic tubing prongs aimed into their nostrils.
- You will position yourself to be lying on your left side.
- The anesthesiologist will administer medications through the IV line.
- Most people sleep deeply during the examination and are unaware that it was even performed.

- **How long does the colonoscopy actually take?**

- The average time in the procedure room is 20-30 minutes.
- Variability in the length of the procedure time depends upon an individual's anatomy (some colons are easier to navigate than others), quality of the preparation, and quantity of polyps to remove or samples to obtain.

- **What happens after the procedure?**

- You will be recovering for approximately 30 minutes.
- Due to the lingering effects from the sedation medication, you may not remember the physician speaking to you. If you gave permission prior to the procedure, the doctor will review the findings with your family member or responsible adult that accompanies you.
- You will be able to eat and drink right after the procedure is completed.
- You will NOT be able to drive or return to work for the remainder of the day.
  - Although you will be awake by the time you are discharged, the sedative medications cause changes in reflexes and judgment that cause a person to feel well but can interfere with the ability to make decisions, similar to the effects of alcohol.



# DAY OF PROCEDURE

## ADDITIONAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What if I have a cold?**
  - If your symptoms are mild and you have no fever, feel free to use Tylenol or other over the counter cold medications and proceed as scheduled.
  - If you have a fever, shortness of breath, or severe cough, please call MOBILE ANESTHESIOLOGISTS at 773-756-5844 and they can discuss if you need to reschedule the procedure when you are feeling better.
- **What if I have my period on the day of the procedure?**
  - No problem at all.
  - Feel free to use a tampon and/or a pad.
- **What if I do not want information shared with my ride?**
  - No problem at all.
  - Your doctor will confirm just prior to the procedure what you are comfortable with.
  - Although you may not remember the details of the procedure findings due to the sedation, all of the information is typed up and attached to the photos that were taken. If you have any questions later on when you are clear-headed, just call the office and we can review the details.
- **Are colonoscopies safe?**
  - Colonoscopy is a safe procedure.
  - Complications are rare, but they can occur.
  - Risks include:
    - Adverse reactions to the medications used to sedate you are possible. By learning about your previous medication allergies or reactions and about health problems such as heart, lung, kidney, or liver disease, we will try to minimize the likelihood of an adverse reaction.
    - Medications can also cause irritation in the vein at the site of the intravenous line. If redness, swelling, or warmth occurs, applying a warm wet towel to the site may relieve the discomfort. If the discomfort persists, please call the office.
    - Aspiration (inhaling) of food or fluids into the lungs is possible but the risk can be minimized by not eating or drinking for the recommended period of time before the examination.
    - The colonoscope can cause a tear or hole in the tissue being examined, which is a serious problem, but fortunately, very uncommon (approximately 1 in every 3,000-5,000 colonoscopies).
    - Bleeding can occur from biopsies or the removal of polyps. This is usually minimal and stops quickly or can be controlled.
    - Lastly, colonoscopy is the best test for preventing colon cancer, but it is not perfect. Due to visual limitations that can occur, it is possible to miss seeing a polyp.