

## CIP ... Colonic Manometry

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*Your child is scheduled for a specialized test called Colonic Manometry that will check the motility of the colon. This guide will help to prepare you and your child so that the experience is as successful as it can be.*

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### **What is gastrointestinal motility?**

- Gastrointestinal motility is the movement of the food that you eat through the entire digestive tract (about 30 feet from the mouth to the rectum) .
- Digestion occurs when the movement of food is coordinated by the nerves and muscles that are part of the digestive tract.

### **What are some of the problems that may occur in gastrointestinal motility?**

- Nerves and muscles that do not work well together or do not work with enough force contribute to gastrointestinal problems.
- Common examples of symptoms related to motility problems include chronic vomiting and constipation.
- Vomiting occurs when stomach and intestine muscle contractions are uncoordinated.
- Constipation results when the muscle contractions in the large intestine are not coordinated. Severe constipation, diarrhea, abdominal swelling and abdominal pain are often related to abnormal muscular contractions of the colon.

### **What is colonic manometry?**

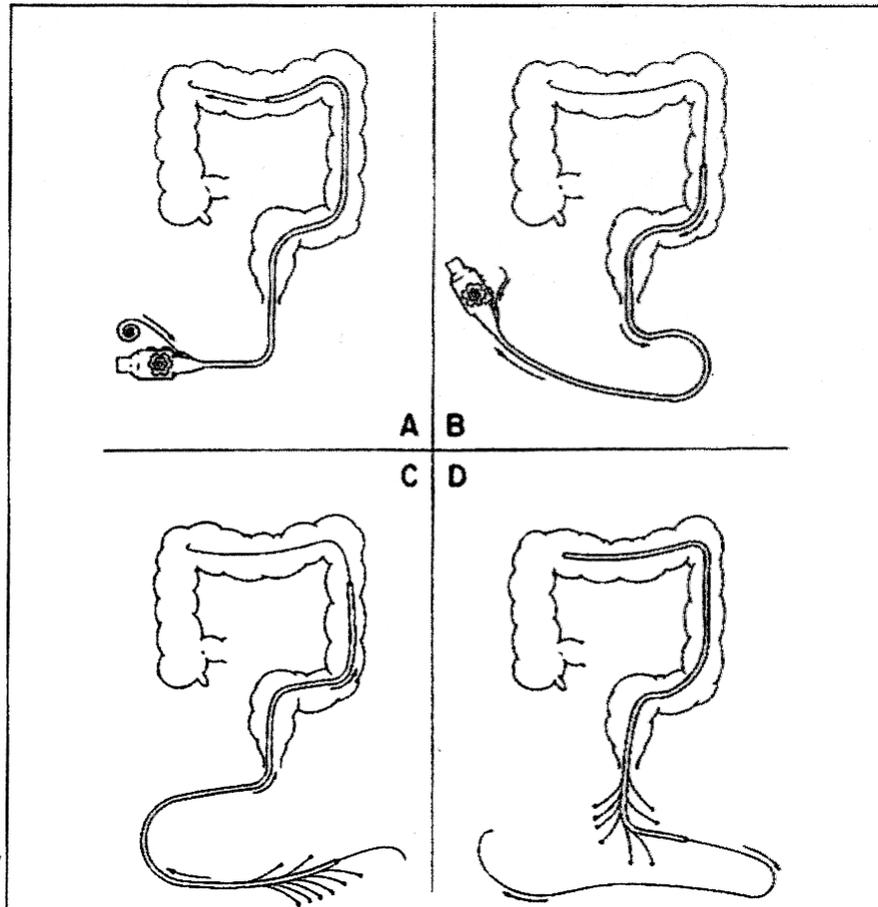
- The colon is also called the large bowel or large intestine. Its job is to store and eliminate waste material through muscle contractions.
- The strength of muscle contractions inside the colon are measured during colonic manometry. Colonic manometry is the measurement of pressure in the colon.

- The test may be used to help your doctors understand the reasons for your child's symptoms in a number of digestive disorders.

### What happens during the procedure?

- First, the colon must be prepared, or cleaned of stools. How this is done will depend on the method chosen by your doctor. If you know, be sure to tell your doctor what has worked – and not worked - in the past.
- Your child will be asked not to eat several hours before testing begins.
- An intravenous needle will be inserted in the vein to give your child sedating medicine.

- When your child is sleeping comfortably a colonoscope, a flexible plastic tube, is inserted into the colon through the rectum. (See figure A.)



- The doctor will then slide a motility tube over the guidewire. The motility tube is a flexible plastic tube as thick as a straw. The guidewire is removed and the motility tube is carefully taped into place on the thigh or buttock until the completion of the test. The motility tube has holes at regular spaces that measure the pressure in different areas of the colon. (See figure C. and D.)

- After catheter placement is completed and your child is awake, we connect the catheter to a system that records the colonic contractions.

- At the end of the session, the tube is removed from the colon by gently pulling it through the anus.

### **How long does the procedure take?**

- Colonic manometry usually takes about 3 hours.
- The doctors may attempt to change the contraction patterns) by giving medicines by mouth or by letting your child eat.

### **Does it hurt?**

- Your child will feel some discomfort due to inserting an IV, lying still for a long period and possibly from injections of medicine.
- Colonic manometry is painless; your child will not feel the tube inside.