

Colon Hydrotherapy as an Alternative Preparation for Colonoscopies

by Carla Roter, RPN (Ontario, Canada)

A thorough exam of the colon is necessary to detect cancer, precancerous growths, or other abnormalities. In Canada, colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death,¹ after lung cancer, and yet early detection of colorectal cancer can increase the odds of survival significantly. However, in 2008, only 40% of Canadians over 50 years of age reported that they had been tested for colorectal cancer.²

Some people resist having a colonoscopy because they do not want to take the over-the-counter laxatives required to prepare for the exam. Others find the side effects of these drugs, such as diarrhea, abdominal cramping, nausea, and vomiting, to be so unpleasant that they won't return for a follow-up.

A successful colonoscopy depends on having a clear colon to allow for an unobstructed view of the colon wall. Without proper cleansing, the results won't be accurate. Fortunately, there is an alternative to harsh chemical laxatives. Colon hydrotherapy, also known as "colonics," is an effective, convenient, and gentle process that removes wastes from the entire length of the colon.

During the past 5 years of my over 30 years as a colon therapist, I have given close to 300 colonoscopy prep treatments at my clinic. Colonics, however, are not for everyone; for example, conditions such as first or last trimester of pregnancy, diverticulitis, or severe hemorrhoids are contraindicated. Not only do I do a thorough assessment of each client to ensure there are no contraindications, but clients coming to me for colonoscopy prep are also referred to me by their doctor or gastroenterologist.

Colon Hydrotherapy Colonoscopy Prep

I give my clients two colonics on consecutive days in preparation for a colonoscopy. If their exam is to be in the afternoon, the second treatment occurs in the morning of that day, otherwise, it is given the day before. Clients are also given specific dietary advice to follow.

I use the ergonomically designed, state-of-the art, Health Canada-approved Angel of Water hydrotherapy system, which allows for a safe, comfortable, and dignified colonic. My clients have commented on how gentle the treatment is. The temperature-controlled filtered water that passes through the colon is carefully monitored throughout the treatment, and it can be switched off at any time. Abdominal massage is also carried out during the procedure to facilitate the cleansing of the entire colon. In addition to cleansing the colon, colon hydrotherapy promotes peristalsis, which enhances the muscle tone of the colon and supports elimination.

Essential Final Steps

An essential step to complete the colon hydrotherapy treatment is a rectal implant of a probiotic, primarily acidophilus. I also add an implant of Quinton America's isotonic

solution, which helps restore electrolyte balance and ensure the regeneration of healthy flora in the colon. *[NB: the implants are administered not through the Angel of Water device itself but through a 60 ml syringe with a catheter tip before, after, and in between the procedure.]* Clients can also obtain an *oral* form of this solution to take at home. In fact, the oral isotonic solution is a beneficial supplement to take on an ongoing basis. An isotonic solution is one that has the same mineral concentration as our blood plasma, and Quinton America's isotonic solution, which is made with pristine and sterilized sea water, contains more than 90 minerals and trace elements. Because it is almost identical to our blood plasma, it can be assimilated quickly and completely. Quinton America's isotonic solution is coming to be recognized as essential to colon hydrotherapy treatments, and it is already used extensively by colon therapists throughout Quebec, Europe, and the United States.

Effectiveness of Colon Hydrotherapy for Colonoscopy Preps

A presentation at the annual scientific meeting of the American College of Gastroenterology in 2006 reported on the results of a study that showed that hydrotherapy worked better than laxatives in clearing the colon.³ The patients also rated hydrotherapy higher on ease, convenience, and comfort.

Some people will not or cannot take the over-the-counter preparations for colon cleansing, but colon hydrotherapy offers a more tolerable and convenient alternative for many people.

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References

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