

# BowelPrepGuide

## Your guide to excellent bowel prep.

### DAY-BEFORE BOWEL PREPARATION FOR COLONOSCOPY

Using Colyte (Alaven), GoLYTELY (Braintree), NuLYTELY (Braintree), TriLyte (Alaven)

And Bisacodyl (Dulcolax)

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#### What is bowel preparation?

- Bowel preparation is the process of preparing your bowel for an effective diagnostic or therapeutic medical procedure such as colonoscopy.

#### Why is bowel preparation important?

- Adequate bowel preparation is the key to a successful colonoscopy. It allows your provider to see the mucosal lining of your colon.
- Inadequate bowel prep means aborted procedures, repeat procedures, reduced detection of polyps and cancer, increased risk for complications, lost co-pays and cost of transportation, lost day at work and wages, lost productivity for patient and accompanying adult.

#### What diet should I be on?

- A clear liquid diet a day before your colonoscopy.

#### What is clear liquid diet?

- Examples of clear liquid diet include water, tea, plain coffee, lemonade from powdered mix, carbonated beverages and soda, clear juices such as apple and white grape, plain or flavored gelatin, sports drinks such as Gatorade®, All-Sports®, Powerade®; sorbet, popsicles, honey, sugar, hard candy, fat-free broth, bouillon or consommé.

Clear liquid diet excludes red and purple colored substances. Alcohol is also not allowed.

### **What do I do 1 week before the colonoscopy?**

- Discuss all your medications with your provider.
- You may need to stop your antiplatelet or anticoagulants such as Coumadin®, Plavix®.
- Avoid medications used to stop diarrhea such as Imodium®, Lomotil®, Pecto Bismol®.
- Avoid fiber supplements such as Metamucil®, Citrucel®.
- Avoid iron or products that contain iron.
- Stop taking fish oil 2 days before your colonoscopy.

### **What do I do a day before the colonoscopy?**

- Have a clear liquid diet throughout the day. Clear liquid diet excludes red and purple colored substances. No solid foods, milk products, fruits, seeds & nuts.
- Be sure to keep hydrated by drinking 8oz of clear liquid every hour.
- If you have diabetes mellitus, you may need to take half the dose of your medication while on clear liquid diet. Please, talk to your provider about this.
- Take 4 tablets of bisacodyl (Dulcolax) around 3.00-4.00PM.
- Mix your bowel prep agent with water as instructed in the package label.
- Refrigerate to chill.
- Starting at 5.00-6.00PM, Drink the bowel prep agent at a rate of 8oz every 10-15mins until 4L is completed.

### **What do I do on the day of the colonoscopy?**

- You may take your morning medications as usual unless as directed by your doctor.
- Avoid further fluid intake 2hrs before your scheduled colonoscopy.
- If you are diabetic, do not take oral diabetic medications or short-acting insulin on the day of your colonoscopy. Talk to your provider about this.

**What are the possible adverse events of bowel prep agents?**

- Though rare, the following adverse reactions have been reported. Abdominal fullness and cramping, nausea, vomiting, electrolyte abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmias, seizures, and renal impairment. You will have diarrhea so stay near a toilet. Use a soft toilet tissue. For anorectal irritation or discomfort, use soft toilet paper or baby wipes. Apply Vaseline or Desitin® ointment or any baby diaper ointment to the skin around the anus. For flare of hemorrhoids, use hydrocortisone cream or hemorrhoidal agents.

Remember to drink plenty of fluids. Bring an adult with you. You must be accompanied by a friend or relative to take you home. Good luck!

Visit [www.bowelprepguide.com](http://www.bowelprepguide.com) for more information on bowel preparation for colonoscopy.