



# Rectal Biopsy: Bowel Cleanout Instructions for Your Child

## What is a rectal biopsy?

A rectal biopsy is a procedure to take a small tissue sample from the wall of the rectum. The tissue sample is studied to see if the nerve cells of the rectum are normal, abnormal or missing. It will help us diagnose bowel problems and help determine the best treatment for your child.

## How do I prepare my child for the biopsy?

Before the biopsy, the Surgery Center will call you with your arrival time and eating instructions. Follow the instructions below to make sure your child's bowel is completely empty for the biopsy.

### Purchase the items that are checked at any drug store:

\_\_\_\_\_ Pediatric Fleet saline enema

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Fleet saline enema

### Two nights before the test:

- Give your child one \_\_\_\_\_-sized Fleet saline enema before bedtime.

### One night before the test:

- Give your child one \_\_\_\_\_-sized Fleet saline enema before bedtime.

## What can I expect after the biopsy?

Your child will not have much pain after the procedure. Your child may have a small amount of bleeding when they have bowel movements for 1 or 2 days. If your child has a large amount of bleeding or it continues for more than 2 days, call your child's healthcare provider.

## When will I get the test results?

The results will be available in about a week after the test. Your child's provider will call you with the results.

### To Learn More

- General Surgery  
206-987-2794
- Gastroenterology  
206-987-2521
- Reconstructive Pelvic  
Medicine  
206-987-1240
- [www.seattlechildrens.org](http://www.seattlechildrens.org)

### Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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