

## Are there any risks or complications?

Unexpected complications can include:

- new hole in the bowel (perforation)
- movement of the stent
- not able to insert stent
- bowel blocking again
- bleeding or pain
- reactions to medicines given

## When to get help

**Call your doctor** right away if you notice:

- flu-like symptoms such as fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, and chills
- symptoms that suggest your bowel is blocked again, such as vomiting, swollen belly (bloating usually from gas), not passing stool, or pain that does not go away

**Go to the nearest Emergency Department or call 9-1-1** if any of the following happen:

- bleeding from the bowel that does not stop
- severe pain which might mean there is a new hole in the bowel

## Locations

**Abbotsford-Regional Hospital** 604-851-4866  
Medical Imaging, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Fraser Wing  
32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford

**Lions Gate Hospital** 604-984-5775  
Medical Imaging, Lower Level  
231 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver

**Royal Columbian Hospital** 604-520-4640  
Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower  
330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster

**St. Paul's Hospital** 604-806-8006  
Medical Imaging, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Providence Building  
1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver

**UBC Hospital** 604-822-7076  
Medical Imaging, Main Floor  
2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver

**Vancouver General Hospital** 604-875-4111  
GI/GU Department, Jim Pattison Pavilion Ext 68937  
Station 5, Ground Floor, 855 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver

**HealthLinkBC** 8-1-1

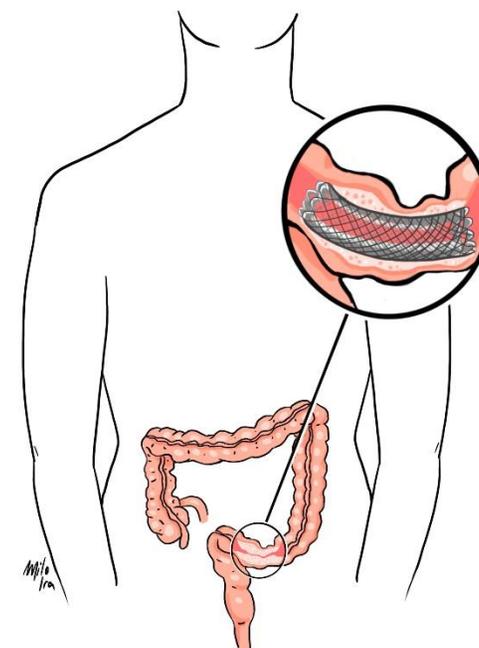
Call any time you have any questions or concerns.  
HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours.

Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.



# Colorectal Stent Placement

Medical Imaging



[www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca) ♦ [www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

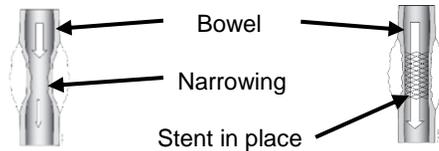
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## What are the Colon and Rectum? What is a Colorectal Stent?

The colon and rectum are part of the bowel. The bowel is what digests your food and drink and removes waste as stool (poop).

A stent is a hollow tube usually made of wire mesh. It opens a narrowing or blockage.

In this case, a stent is put in place to keep the bowel open.



### Who will be doing the procedure?

An interventional radiologist does the procedure. This doctor specializes in image-guided procedures and uses fluoroscopy for this procedure.

If you have questions about the procedure, you can ask the radiologist before we start.

### Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, a relative or friend can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for safety reasons, they cannot be in the room with you during the procedure. We will tell them where to wait during the procedure.

**You must arrange for a responsible adult to drive or escort you home after this procedure.**

### What happens before the procedure?

Our Medical Imaging department contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for this procedure.

### What happens during the procedure?

We start an intravenous in one of your arms. This allows us to give you medicine to help you relax (sedation) and to treat any pain.

Your bowel needs to be empty before the radiologist can put the stent in place. To empty your bowels, you might need an enema. To do this, the nurse:

- Gently inserts a small, soft, short tube through your rectum into your bowel.
- Passes medicine through the tube into your bowel.

The radiologist then does the following:

- Inserts a thin tube (catheter) with a deflated balloon through your rectum, into your bowel.
- Inflates the balloon where your bowel is narrow.
- Inserts a stent in the same way as the balloon.
- Removes the catheter and leaves the stent in place.

### Does it hurt?

You might have some pain or discomfort in your belly. The radiologist inserts numbing medicine (anesthetic) into your rectum. We can also give you pain medicine to help.

### How long will it take?

Every person and situation is different. The procedure usually takes 45 to 60 minutes.

### What happens afterwards?

We move you to a recovery area. You stay here for 2 to 4 hours.

The radiologist gives you instructions on when you can eat and drink.

You might need to empty your bowels often. You might not be able to get to the toilet on time. Your stool might be liquid and bloody. These symptoms should go away while you recover.

### How do I take care of myself at home?

- Resume taking routine medicines unless your doctor or the radiologist tells you something different.
- If you have any pain, take the pain medicine you usually take for minor aches and pains. Your pain or discomfort should go away in 24 to 48 hours as your bowels start to work again.
- For at least 48 hours:
  - ✗ Do not do any heavy exercise or activity.
  - ✗ Do not lift, carry, push, or pull heavy objects.
- **It is very important not to become constipated.** You might need to take medicine to help you pass stool (stool softeners or laxatives).