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You may choose to have one or more of these. Some patients choose to have no medications at all.

Sometimes a small amount of tissue (biopsy) may need to be taken from a particular area for further examination in the laboratory. The tissue is removed using tiny forceps passed through the colonoscope. This is usually painless. However, you may feel a tugging sensation. During the test, photographs of your bowel may be taken.

When you come to the department, a nurse will discuss the test with you. This is to ensure that you understand what the test involves. If you have any questions or worries, don't be afraid to ask.

H f d

The Gemini Endoscopy Suite is located on Level 0 at the North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple.

If you come in through the main hospital entrance, use the lifts or stairs to go down to Level 0. On leaving the lift turn right and head for the link corridor. The corridor forms a 'crossroad' – take the right turn and follow the corridor up to a double set of doors, through the doors and the Gemini Endoscopy Suite is on your left.

If you come in from the Endoscopy Drop-off Zone, you will need to walk between the building and the small grey building to find a blue door on your right. Go through the blue door and the entrance to the Gemini Endoscopy suite is directly opposite.

S e c a e c a

If you are taking any of the following medications and this has not been discussed at pre-assessment, please contact the Gemini Endoscopy Suite, as soon as possible, on 01271 349180 before you come into hospital.

- **Wa fa in**
- **Ri a o aban**
- **Dabiga an**
- **Edo aban**
- **A i aban**
- **Clo idog el**
- **P a g el**
- **Ti**

Choo e

A oid

Ce eal :

You will be offered a hot drink and biscuits, or fruit, once you are dressed. You are welcome to bring your own sandwich or snacks.

W a a e e b e c c a ?

This is a safe procedure. However, there are some small risks.

Pe fo a ion

It is possible to damage the bowel by making a small hole or tear, called a perforation. The risk of this happening is approximately 1 in 1000 tests. This will usually result in admission to hospital and in some cases an operation to repair the hole.

Bleeding

It is not uncommon to have a small amount of blood loss after biopsies or polyp removal, which normally settles within 24 hours. If the blood loss persists or is excessive you may be admitted to hospital for observation and in some cases an operation and /or blood transfusion. The risk of this happening is approximately 1 in 1000. Bleeding can occur up to 10 days after the procedure.

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A colonoscopy i

If you have any queries or concerns about your colonoscopy, please do not hesitate to contact the Gemini Endoscopy Suite.

You can access The Endoscopy Unit webpage on the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust website at www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk. Go to 'Our services' then 'Endoscopy'. Click on 'Endoscopy FAQ' for more information.