



# Radiology & Imaging images

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## Virtual Colonoscopy Did you know that...

- Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer related deaths in the US for men and women.
- Colorectal cancer is one of the most successfully treated cancers if caught early.
- Virtual Colonoscopy is less invasive and faster to perform and does not require conscious sedation.

### Who should have a Virtual Colonoscopy?

Most physicians will agree that everyone older than 50 years of age should be screened for polyps every seven to ten years. However; individuals at increased risk should be screened every 5 years. Risk factors would include: a family history of polyps, a family history of colon cancer, or the presence of blood in the stool. Conventional Colonoscopy is unable to see the entire colon in 1 out of 10 people. Conventional Colonoscopy may also cause an injury of the colon, such as a tear or perforation, which can happen in 1 out of 1500 patients.

### Why have a Virtual CT Colonography?

Virtual Colonoscopy is a new method for detecting colorectal polyps and cancers. It is a minimally invasive technique that uses a CT scan to construct virtual images of the colon. It is well tolerated by patients and does not require sedation. Virtual Colonoscopy is also significantly less expensive than the Conventional Colonoscopy. In addition, most patients report that the Virtual Colonoscopy is much more comfortable than either a Barium Enema or the Conventional Colonoscopy. A Virtual Colonoscopy can also find polyps "hiding" behind folds, which may sometimes be missed by the conventional colonoscopy.

### What should I expect to experience during the Virtual Colonoscopy procedure?

The day of the test the patient will come to one of our convenient locations and the technologist will begin by positioning the patient on the CT exam table, usually lying flat on your back or possibly on your side or stomach. A very small flexible tube will be passed two inches into your rectum to allow air to be gently pumped into the colon using a hand held squeeze bulb. Sometimes an electronic pump is used to deliver carbon dioxide gas into the colon, The purpose of the gas is to distend the colon a little to eliminate any

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## Meet Dr. Ertzner

Dr. Ertzner is a Diplomate of the American Board of Radiology and a Diplomate of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. He is subspecialty trained in Nuclear Medicine. Dr. Ertzner received his MD from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He completed his Radiology residency and his fellowship in Nuclear Medicine at Vanderbilt University. His academic positions included teaching Nuclear Medicine and Radiology at Wilford Hall in San Antonio.

Dr. Ertzner currently serves as the Director of Coastal Bend PET Scan Center and has read over 2,500 PET scans since the center opened in 2004. He is Co-Director of Outpatient Imaging Services. Dr. Ertzner and his wife are the parents of one son, and the proud grandparents to a grandson. They enjoy traveling to Colorado with their family and pets for recreation and snow skiing in their spare time.





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this newsletter and our  
services.

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### Imaging Centers

Alameda  
3226 S. Alameda St.  
(361) 888-6684

Williams  
7101 Williams Dr.  
(361) 993-9393

South  
2825 Spohn South Drive  
(361) 991-9595

Coastal Bend P.E.T. Scan, Ltd.  
1533 5th St.  
(361) 880-SCAN (7226)

Central Scheduling  
Appointment Line  
(361) 888-8875

### Business Office

3226 Reid Dr.  
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folds or wrinkles that might obscure polyps from the physician's view.

Next, the table will move through the scanner. Patients are asked to hold their breath for about 15 seconds. Once the scan is done, the tube is removed.

The vast majority of patients who have Virtual Colonoscopy report a feeling of fullness when the colon is inflated during the exam, as if they need to pass gas. The scanning procedure itself causes no pain or other symptoms. In fact, the entire examination is usually completed within 15 minutes.

### How does the procedure work?

CT Scanning is sometimes called CAT scanning. CT Imaging uses special x-ray equipment to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of body. CT imaging is sometimes compared to looking into a loaf of bread by cutting the loaf into thin slices. When the image slices are reassembled by computer software, the result is a very detailed multidimensional view of the body's interior.

For CT Colonoscopy, the computer generates a detailed three-dimensional model of the abdomen and pelvis, which one of our highly competent radiologists will use to view the bowel in a way that simulates traveling down the colon.

Be sure to ask your physician to refer you to one of **Radiology & Imaging** conveniently located sites for your Virtual Colonoscopy. Or you may call our central schedule line at **888-8875**.

## Case Of The Month: COLORECTAL CANCER 70 YEAR OLD MALE

### Case Description:

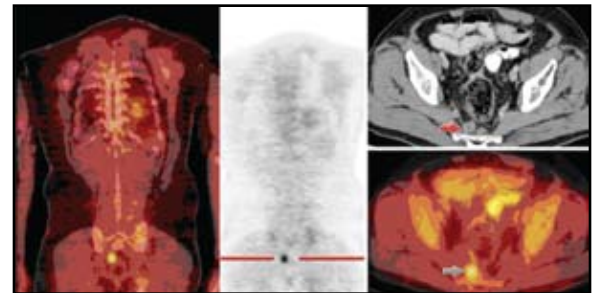
Patient with a history of colorectal cancer with rising CEA level.

### Clinical History:

A 70 year old man with a history of colorectal cancer, status post resection, with rising CEA level was scheduled for a restaging PET-CT scan.

### Imaging Findings:

The PET-CT scan revealed a focal area of intense increased uptake of FDG in the presacral space corresponding to small presacral node or soft tissue mass in that area on the CT portion of the exam. This area of increased uptake was very suspicious for recurrent malignancy.



### Pathology Report:

A CT guided biopsy of the presacral mass was positive for malignant cells, and confirmed moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma, consistent with metastasis from colonic primary.

### Treatment and Follow-up:

The patient underwent chemotherapy followed by resection of presacral mass.

### Discussion

The PET-CT scan was helpful in guiding the biopsy the patient's right sided presacral lesion, which yielded the diagnosis of recurrent adenocarcinoma. This was also a nice case of detecting an abnormality when the patient's tumor markers began to rise. Although this abnormality likely would have been picked up on CT alone, often times in this patient population we will find occult metastases.

## Best of the Best

Favorite businesses in Corpus Christi were recently chosen by the readers of the Caller-Times Newspaper in the 13th Annual Best of the Best contest.

In the category of Radiology, Best of the Best #1 was awarded to Corpus Christi's only Radiology & Imaging of South Texas!

Thank you for supporting us and making us **#1!**

