

Laparoscopic Biopsy

Laparoscopic biopsy involves a small surgical incision in three places on the abdomen and collection of samples of the bowel wall to look at the muscles and nerve supply and the messenger molecules. The child is required to stay in hospital overnight. In Victoria, the laparoscopic biopsies are offered only if the transit study suggests a hold-up in the colon. Once the biopsy specimens are collected from the colon, they are currently processed for immunofluorescence histochemistry (cell staining) in a special laboratory at the Royal Children's Hospital Pathology Department, and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) to assist the medical team in identifying any further abnormality in your child's colon.

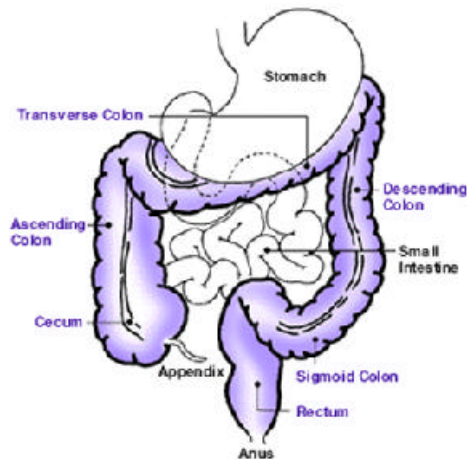


Diagram of the Colon and Rectum

Pictured left: Colon - Biopsies are typically taken from the caecum, transverse and sigmoid colon.

To have biopsies the hospital will arrange for your child to be admitted and probably stay a day or so until your child is mobile enough to go home. You are allowed to stay with your child during induction of anaesthesia, so that they are not frightened by the strange surroundings.

The procedure itself takes very little time (approx 45 minutes) and when the procedure is finished the theatre staff will move your child into the recovery area until your child wakes up fully. Usually the doctor will speak with you in the Parents' Waiting area just before your child is moved into the recovery area and reassure you that all has gone well. Once your child is settled in the post-op area, parents/carers are called into the recovery area to stay with their child until they wake from the anaesthetic; this way the child sees your familiar face and any distress is lessened. Your child will remain in the recovery room for approximately 30 – 40 minutes before they are moved up to a ward where they will remain until they go home.

**All medical information published in the Parent Fact Sheet Series is overseen by the Paediatric Continence Advisory Council.
For more information please go to pcaa.org.au**