

## Observed Colonoscopic Withdrawal Time from the Cecum to the Anus in a Community Setting

Douglas J. Sprung, MD, FACP • Mary Wagner, RN • Dorene Mulcahy, RN  
The Gastroenterology Group, Florida Hospital & Winter Park ASC, Orlando, Florida

### Purpose:

To assess the average time spent by community endoscopists examining the colonic mucosa during withdrawal of the colonoscope from the cecum, in order to add to the scant published data available.

### Methods:

All colonoscopies done between 10/1/04 - 4/1/05 in a single hospital endoscopy unit and a single ambulatory surgical center in Orlando, FL were included. 14 endoscopists were involved. They were in practice a mean of 12 years. The doctors were aware that this data was being collected. Data points included time colonoscopy begun, time cecum reached, time exam terminated and whether or not polyps or biopsies were removed. 25 cases that did not reach the cecum were excluded (2%).

### Results:

- 1337 colonoscopies were performed in 6 months.
- For routine surveillance colonoscopies mean withdrawal time was 6.15 minutes (*range 2 - 25 minutes*)
- Median was 6.5 minutes.
- When biopsies or polyps were removed the mean withdrawal time was 8.75 minutes.

### Conclusion:

1. The average colonoscopic withdrawal time from the cecum was 6.15 minutes for a diagnostic exam and 8.75 minutes when polyps or biopsies were taken.
2. This data is similar to publicized recommendations, suggesting a good quality of colonoscopic evaluation in this community.
3. Similar data collection could result in report cards for colonoscopic evaluation in all regions of our country.