

## **CO<sub>2</sub>-INSUFFLATION DURING COLONOSCOPY**

Dear patient,

for the colonoscopy, we can offer you the option of CO<sub>2</sub> insufflation.

### **What does that mean?**

During a colonoscopy, it is necessary to pump gas into the intestine so that the bowel is slightly inflated and easier to examine. Usually, regular room air is used. When the device is withdrawn, as much of this air as possible is suctioned out. However, nearly always a relevant amount remains in the bowel, which can potentially cause a feeling of bloating after the procedure.

Now, there is the option to use CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) instead of normal air. The advantage of CO<sub>2</sub> is that it is absorbed about 150 times faster by the body from the intestine and exhaled through the lungs, meaning it is "disposed of" more quickly. As a result, the feeling of bloating after the colonoscopy — if any occurs — is significantly less and subsides much faster, especially after longer procedures (e.g. when multiple polyps are removed).

### **Are there risks associated with CO<sub>2</sub> insufflation?**

CO<sub>2</sub> in the intestine is rapidly absorbed by the body and transported via the bloodstream to the lungs, where it is exhaled just like the CO<sub>2</sub> produced during normal metabolism. So far, no relevant side effects have been known, even in patients with lung diseases.

### **When do we use CO<sub>2</sub> insufflation?**

In principle, CO<sub>2</sub> insufflation can be used in any colonoscopy.

However, the use of CO<sub>2</sub> insufflation is not covered by statutory health insurance, so we can only offer it as a so-called "IGel service" (individual health service). This means that if you wish to have CO<sub>2</sub> insufflation and it is used during your procedure, we will charge you a fee of **20 euros** per colonoscopy.

If you would like to opt for CO<sub>2</sub> insufflation, please bring the amount of **20 euros** with you for the procedure.

If you have any questions about CO<sub>2</sub> insufflation, please feel free to contact us.