



Follow-up after bowel polyps: a short guide

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How is the timing decided?

I look at the number, size and type of polyps, the histology result, whether the polyps were fully removed and how well the bowel was seen. Previous polyps, family history and your health also guide follow-up. High-grade dysplasia is an advanced cell change, but it is not invasive cancer.

Different reasons for another check

An early scar check looks for remaining or recurrent tissue after some large or complex polyp removals. Later surveillance looks for further polyps throughout the bowel. You may need both. New symptoms need assessment separately and should not wait until your surveillance date.

Your documented recommendation

Your recommended follow-up will be documented in the endoscopy and/or histology report after tissue results are available. Please get in touch with me if the next step is unclear, a result or due appointment has not arrived, or you would like a consultation to discuss your results. A negative FIT does not replace an advised colonoscopy. Sometimes the surveillance interval I recommend does not meet public funding criteria. Eligibility reflects clinical risk and how services prioritise available capacity. If this affects you, we can discuss the recommendation and available options.

When to seek help

Discuss new bleeding, persistent bowel changes or unexplained weight loss with me or your GP. After polyp removal, seek urgent assessment for heavy or ongoing bleeding, clots, black tarry stools, severe or worsening pain, fever, repeated vomiting or faintness. Call 111 for collapse, heavy bleeding with faintness or if you cannot travel safely. Follow your discharge and individual medicine instructions.





What guides your next examination?

Different reasons to return

Removal-site check

Checks for remaining or regrown polyp tissue at the treated area.

Routine surveillance

A planned examination to look for further polyps.

Review of new symptoms

Assessment when symptoms change.
Do not wait for a planned check.

A removal-site check, routine surveillance and assessment of new symptoms have different purposes. Your report explains which applies to you.

Read this illustration alongside the advice in this guide.

