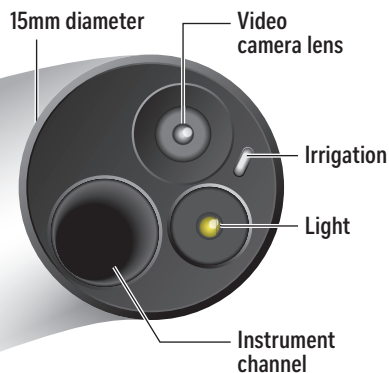


# Colonic stent procedure

A colonic stent is a wire-mesh tube which helps keep the large intestines open to relieve bowel blockage caused by a tumour.

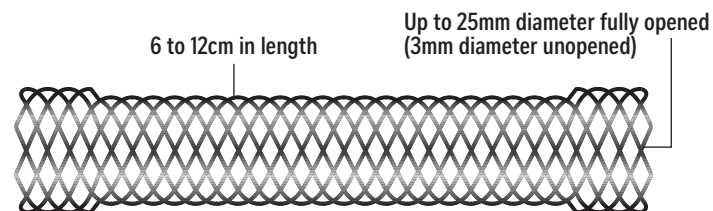
## The colonoscope

This flexible tube is used to view the inside of the colon. It is passed through the rectum.



## The stent

It is self-expandable and gently expands over 48 hours once released, pushing aside the tumour to leave the passage clear. Most people cannot feel the stent once it is in, and it will not interfere with daily activities.



**1** Using X-ray, a soft guide wire is inserted through the colonoscope and manoeuvred through the blockage.

**2** A slim sheath that has the compressed stent is placed over the wire and guided into position across the blockage.

**3** The sheath is retracted to release the stent and the colonoscope is withdrawn.

**4** The stent will reach its maximum diameter within two days.

