

Endoscopy Procedure Information/Questions

What is an Upper Endoscopy?

An upper endoscopy is a fiberoptic examination of the esophagus, stomach and small intestine. There are many reasons for undergoing an upper Endoscopy. This exam is frequently performed for evaluation of acid reflux disease, Barrett's esophagus, peptic ulcer disease, anemia, gastrointestinal bleeding, abdominal pain, and malabsorption.

What happens during the procedure?

After checking in at the front desk, you will be escorted by our medical assistant to a changing room, provided with a gown, and brought into the procedure room. You will meet the Gastroenterologist and Anesthesiologist who will discuss the test, answer any questions about the procedure you might have, and obtain your signature on a consent form. An intravenous and monitors will be placed and you will be asked to turn on your left side and a bite block will be placed in your mouth and a sedative will be administered. From that point on you will be comfortable and unaware of the upper Endoscopy that is being performed. The upper endoscope is inserted into your mouth and advanced all the way to the small intestine – this is done under direct vision. The instrument is then slowly withdrawn and the doctor carefully examines the upper gi tract for pathology. If pathology is identified, it may be biopsied. Soon after the exam is completed, you will be awake and the sedation will wear off and you should be ready to leave about 20 to 30 minutes after the test is complete. At that time the doctor will meet with you and discuss the results.

Where is the procedure done?

Procedures are conducted in our state of the art Gastroenterology Suite located at our offices.

How long is the procedure?

The procedure typically lasts 5-10 minutes. Please also allow an additional 20-30 minutes for recovery.

Will the procedure hurt?

Some patients note minor discomfort during the procedure. For this reason we can offer anti-anxiety and pain medication. We also offer the option of a Board Certified Anesthesiologist to assure your comfort and safety during the procedure and prompt recovery after the endoscopy. There may be an extra charge if you choose the anesthesia option.

Are there any risks?

Risks associated with this procedure are minimal, usually less than one percent, and include sore throat, reaction to medications, minor bleeding, and very rarely a perforation could occur that would require surgical repair. Please also note that an upper Endoscopy is not 100% sensitive and specific and there is a small possibility of a missed diagnosis despite having a competently performed upper Endoscopy.

Insurance Issues

If you are covered under a managed care plan, you may need a referral or authorization from your primary care physician. If required, please make sure this is obtained prior to your procedure and furnished to our office. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of the procedure.

For more information on endoscopies from the AGA, please go to:
<http://www.gastro.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=859>