

FACTS AND INFORMATION ABOUT ERCP

ERCP is a specialized technique to see the ducts draining the liver, gall bladder and pancreas. It involves passing a small tube with a camera at its end from the mouth into stomach and duodenum. A catheter is passed into the common opening for the ducts of liver and pancreas. Contrast is then injected into the ducts and X-rays are taken.

ERCP is valuable to diagnose, diseases of the pancreas, bile ducts, liver and gall bladder. This exam can make the most vital distinction between whether jaundice is caused by diseases that are treated medically, i.e. hepatitis, and gall stones, tumors, or strictures that are treated surgically or endoscopically. ERCP provides far more detailed information, compared to standard scans or X-rays. Several conditions of the biliary and pancreatic ducts can be treated by ERCP namely, opening the end of bile duct, remove stones and place stents (plastic tubes) across obstructed ducts to improve their drainage.

Patients are required not to eat or drink anything for at least 6 hours, / or after dinner / or midnight. Please notify us if you have any **allergies** or if you take **antibiotics** before dental work. Most medications need to be stopped prior to the test, particularly insulin and diabetic medications.

ERCP is a well tolerated procedure. You will receive medication through a vein to help you relax and increase your tolerance of the test. Since the medication impairs your reflexes and judgment ***you will not be allowed to drive or work that day.*** Allergy to **iodine** containing dye is **not a contraindication to ERCP.**

Major complications include Pancreatitis, Infection, Perforation of bowel, and Bleeding with each occurring in less than 1% of patients and 3% to 5% in cases of therapeutic ERCP. These risks vary with the indications findings and therapeutic intervention of the test and other concomitant medical problems. Often these complications can be managed without surgery, but sometimes they do require surgery.

Localized irritation of the vein where medications were injected may cause a tender lump lasting at times for several days, this will go away eventually. Applying hot packs or hot moist towels may help relieve the discomfort. Other potential risks include a reaction to the sedatives used and complications from heart or lung diseases. Please **call our office immediately** if you notice any of the following symptoms: **severe abdominal pain, fever, chills, difficulty swallowing, increasing throat or chest discomfort.** You may have a sore throat or feel bloated right after the test

because the air introduced into your stomach during the test. You will be able to eat your normal diet after you leave the procedure area unless instructed otherwise.

This procedure is covered by most insurance companies, please check with your insurance carrier if a precertification is needed, the hospital where the procedure is scheduled is part of the network. Insurance carriers will impose penalty if precertification is not obtained. Our office will assist you as much as we can, however ***precertification is your responsibility.*** Our office will bill your insurance company, this is a courtesy extended to you without cost. You will receive a statement from our business office regarding charges, payments and balance due.

This information is sent to you to prepare and educate you for this procedure. If you have any questions please feel free to call our office. We welcome your questions. We are :

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