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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/endoscopy.html>

Endoscopy

Endoscopy is a procedure that lets your doctor look inside your body. It uses an instrument called an endoscope, or scope for short. Scopes have a tiny camera attached to a long, thin tube. The doctor moves it through a body passageway or opening to see inside an organ. Sometimes scopes are used for surgery, such as for removing polyps

[\[https://medlineplus.gov/colonicpolyps.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/colonicpolyps.html) from the colon.

There are many different kinds of endoscopy. Here are the names of some of them and where they look.:

- Arthroscopy: joints
- Bronchoscopy: lungs
- Colonoscopy [\[https://medlineplus.gov/colonoscopy.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/colonoscopy.html) and sigmoidoscopy: large intestine
- Cystoscopy and ureteroscopy: urinary system
- Laparoscopy [\[https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/laparoscopy/\]](https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/laparoscopy/) : abdomen or pelvis
- Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy: esophagus and stomach

Start Here




- Endoscopy [\[https://www.cancer.org/cancer/diagnosis-staging/tests/endoscopy.html\]](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/diagnosis-staging/tests/endoscopy.html) (American Cancer Society)
Also in Spanish [\[https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/diagnostico-y-etapa-del-cancer/pruebas/endoscopia.html\]](https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/diagnostico-y-etapa-del-cancer/pruebas/endoscopia.html)

Related Issues

- Sedation for Endoscopy [\[https://gi.org/topics/sedation-for-endoscopy/\]](https://gi.org/topics/sedation-for-endoscopy/) (American College of Gastroenterology)

Specifics


- Adrenal Gland Removal (Adrenalectomy) [\[https://www.sages.org/publications/patient-information/adrenal-gland-removal-adrenalectomy-patient-information-from-sages/\]](https://www.sages.org/publications/patient-information/adrenal-gland-removal-adrenalectomy-patient-information-from-sages/) (Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons)
- Bronchoscopy and Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL) [\[https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/bronchoscopy-and-bronchoalveolar-lavage-bal/\]](https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/bronchoscopy-and-bronchoalveolar-lavage-bal/)  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [\[https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/broncoscopia-con-lavado-broncoalveolar/\]](https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/broncoscopia-con-lavado-broncoalveolar/)
- Capsule Endoscopy [\[https://www.asge.org/home/for-patients/patient-information/understanding-capsule-endoscopy/\]](https://www.asge.org/home/for-patients/patient-information/understanding-capsule-endoscopy/)
(American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy)
- Colonoscopy: MedlinePlus Health Topic [\[https://medlineplus.gov/colonoscopy.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/colonoscopy.html)  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [\[https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/colonoscopy.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/colonoscopy.html)
- Colposcopy [\[https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/colposcopy/\]](https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/colposcopy/)  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [\[https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/colposcopia/\]](https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/colposcopia/)
- Cystoscopy and Ureteroscopy [\[https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/cystoscopy-ureteroscopy/\]](https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/cystoscopy-ureteroscopy/)
 (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [\[https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/cistoscopia-ureteroscopia/\]](https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/cistoscopia-ureteroscopia/)

- Diagnostic Laparoscopy [<https://www.sages.org/publications/patient-information/patient-information-for-diagnostic-laparoscopy-from-sages/>] (Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons)
- Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/endoscopic-retrograde-cholangiopancreatography>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/colangiopancreatografia-retrograda-endoscopica>]
- Laparoscopic Surgery -- What Is It? [<https://fascrs.org/patients/diseases-and-conditions/a-z/laparoscopic-surgery-what-is-it>] (American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons)
Also in Spanish [<https://fascrs.org/patients/diseases-and-conditions/a-z/cirugia-laparoscopica>]
- Laparoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/laparoscopy/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/laparoscopia/>]
- Upper GI Endoscopy [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/upper-gi-endoscopy>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/endoscopia-gastrointestinal-superior?dkrd=/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/endoscopia-esofagogastroduodenal>]
- Ventral Hernia Repair Surgery [<https://www.sages.org/publications/patient-information/patient-information-for-laparoscopic-ventral-hernia-repair-from-sages/>] (Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons)

Images

- Laparoscopic surgery - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100166_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100166_1.htm]
- Laryngoscopy - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100167_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100167_1.htm]
- Pelvic laparoscopy - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100131_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100131_1.htm]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Endoscopy [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?intr=endoscopy&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Effectiveness of Endoscope-Assisted Subgingival Debridement Versus Repeated Root Surface Debridement or... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40743404>]
- Article: Classification of inferior articular process injury after percutaneous endoscopic interlaminar lumbar... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40739493>]
- Article: Design of an infrared wide-angle metalens for medical endoscopic imaging systems. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40734047>]
- Endoscopy -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Endoscopy%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]


Find an Expert

- ASGE: Find a Doctor [<https://www.asge.org/find-a-doctor-results>] (American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy)

Children

- Endoscopy (Upper) (For Children) [<https://gikids.org/tests-procedures/endoscopy-upper/>] (North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition)

Women

- Hysteroscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/hysteroscopy/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/histeroscopia/>]

Patient Handouts

- Bronchoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003857.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003857.htm>]
- Cystoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003903.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003903.htm>]
- Diagnostic laparoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003918.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003918.htm>]
- EGD discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000898.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000898.htm>]
- Endoscopic ultrasound [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007646.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007646.htm>]
- Hysteroscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007571.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007571.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- Ankle arthroscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007584.htm>]
- Bronchoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003857.htm>]
- Capsule endoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007642.htm>]
- Cystoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003903.htm>]
- Diagnostic laparoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003918.htm>]
- EGD - esophagogastroduodenoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003888.htm>]
- EGD discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000898.htm>]
- Endoscopic ultrasound [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007646.htm>]
- Endoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003338.htm>]
- ERCP [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007479.htm>]
- Hysteroscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007571.htm>]
- Laparoscopic surgery - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100166_1.htm]

Laryngoscopy - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100167_1.htm]

Nasal endoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007627.htm>]

Pelvic laparoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002916.htm>]

Pelvic laparoscopy - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100131_1.htm]

Ureteroscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007593.htm>]

Wrist arthroscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007585.htm>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/endoscopy.html>] on *Endoscopy*

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