About Upper Endoscopy

Upper Endoscopy

Upper Endoscopy is a procedure performed by a gastroenterologist to diagnose and, in some cases, treat problems of the upper digestive system. The endoscope is a long, thin, flexible tube with a tiny video camera and light on the end. By adjusting the various controls on the endoscope, the gastroenterologist can safely guide the instrument to carefully examine the inside lining of the upper digestive system.

Upper endoscopy can be helpful in the evaluation or diagnosis of various problems including difficult or painful swallowing, pain in the stomach or abdomen, bleeding, ulcers and tumors. Instruments can be passed through the endoscope to obtain tissue samples, coagulate (stop) bleeding sites, dilate or stretch a narrowed area, or perform other treatments.

In preparation for this procedure, you will be given an intravenous line through which sedative medication will be administered. You will be drowsy but not completely asleep during the procedure.

Upper Endoscopy Information Link
www.asge.org/patients

Important Information
PreProcedure Contacts
You may receive several pre-procedure telephone calls from

- Pre-Registration – to confirm your appointment and obtain insurance and contact information.
- Endoscopy Clinic – to review your medical history and answer any questions you may have.

Please also have this information available on the day of your procedure

Medical Alerts

- If you are on Coumadin, Plavix, or any other blood thinner, please call your primary care provider to let him know you have been asked to stop your medication. You may be placed on a different blood thinner until the procedure day.

- If you are diabetic and are on any medications to control your blood sugar, please contact your primary care provider for instructions on taking your medication the day before and day of your procedure. Continue to monitor your blood sugar as usual. You may receive a call from the anesthesia nurse to review this as well prior to the procedure.

- If you have a pacemaker or defibrillator, please call 973-7446 to inform the nursing staff. If you have a device card for the pacemaker or defibrillator, please bring it with you.

- If you are allergic to any medications, please inform the physician, particularly if you are allergic to Versed or Fentanyl.

- If you have a history of a bleeding disorder or if you have frequent unexplained bleeding, please inform our office and physician.

Transportation After the Procedure
You cannot drive. You must be accompanied home by a responsible party. You also will need a responsible party to stay with you until the following morning. If you do not have someone to drive you home, your procedure will be rescheduled.
Insurance Authorization
Please make sure you have prior authorization from your insurance company for your endoscopy.

If you have any questions about your endoscopy or are unable to keep your appointment, please call our office at 973-4266 and ask for our schedulers.

Thank You!
Upper Endoscopy Instructions
Please follow these instructions carefully. This will avoid having to reschedule. You will be called the week prior to verify your appointment and answer any questions you may have.

Five Days Week Prior to Upper Endoscopy
Stop taking
- Coumadin, Warfarin, Plavix or other blood thinning products (please call your prescribing physician first)
- Non-steroidal Medication
- Iron Supplements or multivitamins with iron
- Fish Oil

Day Before your Upper Endoscopy
If your endoscopy is scheduled before noon, please do not eat or drink after midnight

Day of the Endoscopy
Stop all liquids 8 hours before your scheduled endoscopy time
Arrive one hour before your scheduled time.

Morning medications may be taken with a tiny sip of water.

Questions?
Please call our office and ask to speak to our nurses at 973-4266.