

ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography)

ERCP (endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography) is used in the diagnosis of disorders of the pancreas, bile duct, major papilla, liver and gallbladder. The doctor passes an endoscope (a thin, flexible telescope) through your mouth to inspect your stomach and duodenum. The doctor then injects contrast dye into the opening of the bile ducts and pancreas, to take detailed x-rays. Depending on the findings, the physician may then perform various treatments such as stent placement, biopsies, dialation of a blockage/stricture, or removal of stones.

PREPARATION: To allow a clear view, you should not eat or drink anything 8 hours prior to test. If you must take prescription medicines, take only with small sips of water the morning of your test. No antacids are allowed 12 hours prior to exam. Since x-rays are taken, you should inform us if there is any possibility of pregnancy.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN? Please advise us if you have had any other endoscopic exams, x-rays or scans within the last two weeks. You will be asked to lie on your abdomen on an X-ray table with your arms above your head before the procedure starts. The endoscope will not interfere with your breathing and will not cause any pain. The exam takes an average of 30-60 minutes.

AFTERWARDS: Because of the local anesthetic and sedation you should not attempt to take anything by mouth for at least 2 hours. It is best to stay on clear liquids throughout the rest of that day. If you are an outpatient, you will remain in the clinic area for a minimum of 2 hours.

For the remainder of the day you should not drive a car, eat heavy or solid food, operate machinery, or make any important decisions. The recovery room nurse will give you more detailed instructions before your discharge.

This procedure is typically performed with anesthesia or sedation. This will be discussed when you are contacted by a nurse for your pre-assessment evaluation. If it is determined that sedation or anesthesia is necessary depending on your diagnosis and/or physician preference, a driver must accompany you and stay in the waiting area during your procedure.

If you have any questions regarding the test or instructions above please call the Endoscopy Nurse at (615) 322-1881.