

Upper Endoscopy (EGD)

What is Upper Endoscopy?

Upper endoscopy enables your doctor to view the lining of the upper gastrointestinal tract including the esophagus, stomach and duodenum (the first portion of the small intestine). Your doctor will use a thin flexible tube called an endoscope which has its own lens and light source and will view images on a video monitor.

What Occurs During the Exam?

Your doctor may start spraying your throat with a local anesthetic and will give you intravenous sedation, which will make you sleepy and relaxed. You will lie on your side and your doctor will pass the endoscope through your mouth and into the esophagus, stomach and duodenum. The endoscope doesn't interfere with your breathing.

What Are the Reasons for Upper GI Endoscopy (EGD)?

Upper endoscopy helps your doctor evaluate symptoms of upper abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, difficulty swallowing, heartburn, feeling full or anemia. It's the best test for finding the cause of bleeding from the upper gastrointestinal tract. EGD is more accurate than x-ray films for detecting inflammation, ulcers and tumors of the esophagus, stomach and duodenum. A biopsy (tiny bit of tissue) may be taken for microscopic analysis. You will not feel discomfort when the biopsy is performed; the procedure takes 15-30 minutes and is rarely remembered by the sedated patient.

Are There Possible Risks?

EGD is safe and associated with very low risk. The possible risks include perforation (tearing) of the gastrointestinal tract lining, bleeding and an adverse reaction to sedation.

When Will I Get the Results of the Endoscopy?

After the exam, your doctor will explain the results to you and your family. If a cytology test (where a doctor will introduce a small brush to collect cells for analysis) has been performed, the results may not be available for five to seven days. If you have not heard from our office after that time, please call us. Our office will contact you the next day to see how you are feeling. If you have any questions, please call us at (718) 336-9100.

Note: You may be advised not use aspirin for 7 days prior to the procedure. Ask your doctor if you should stop anti-coagulants or anti-inflammatory medications prior to your procedure.

NO EATING OR DRINKING 6 HOURS BEFORE PROCEDURE