

ERCP

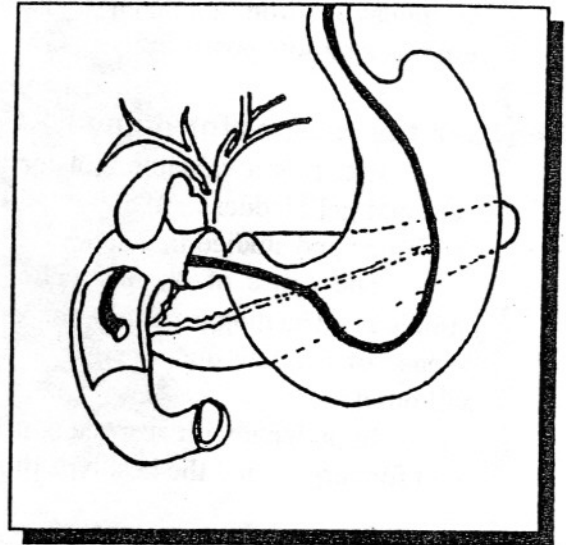
It has been decided after careful medical assessment that ERCP (endoscopes retrograde cholangiopancreatography) is necessary for further evaluation and treatment of your condition. ERCP is a highly sophisticated technique, requiring special endoscopes training, and can be accomplished successfully in high percentage of patients. This brochure has been prepared to help you understand the procedure.

What is an ERCP?

A long flexible tube slightly thinner than a pen is passed through the mouth and back of the throat into the duodenum (the first portion of the small intestine). The opening from the bile duct and pancreatic duct into the duodenum is identified. A small plastic tube (cannula) is then passed through the endoscope into this opening and directed into the bile duct and / or pancreatic duct. Contrast material (dye) is then injected and X-ray is taken to study the ducts.

What preparation is required?

For the best possible examination, the stomach must be completely empty so you should have nothing to eat or drink, including water, from 11pm the evening before the examination or for at least six hours before its performance. Your doctor will be more specific about the time to begin fasting, depending on the time of day that your ERCP is scheduled. **Be sure to let the doctor know if you are allergic to any drugs. A companion must accompany you to the examination** because you will be given medication to help you relax. It will make you drowsy, so you will need someone to take you home. You will not be allowed to drive after the procedure. Even though you may not feel tired, your judgment and reflexes may not be normal. It is also important that your doctor know if you have had any barium X-rays in the past week, as barium may interfere with this test. Please bring your X-rays with you, as they may be important.



What should you expect during the procedure?

Your doctor will give you medication through a vein to make you relaxed and sleepy. And your throat may be sprayed with local anesthetic. While you are lying in a comfortable position on the X-ray table, the ERCP endoscope will be inserted through the mouth, and into the duodenum. During the procedure, while the X-rays are being taken, you may be asked to change your position.

The tube will not interfere with your breathing. Gagging is usually prevented by the medication. During the procedure, you may feel bloated due to the air used to inflate your intestine. As X-ray contrast material is injected into the ducts., you may feel some discomfort.

What happens after the ERCP?

You will be observed in the endoscopes area until most of the effects of the medication have worn off. You may feel bloated for a few minutes right after the procedure because of the air and contrast material that was introduced during the examination. You will be able to resume your diet after the procedure unless you are instructed otherwise.

Are there any complications from ERCP?

ERCP is safe and are associated with very low risk when performed by physicians who have been specially trained and are experienced in this highly specialized procedure. Complications can occur but are uncommon. One possible complication is pancreatitis due to irritation of the pancreatic ducts by the x-ray contrast material. Another possible complication is infection. Localized irritation of the vein may occur at the site of medication injection. A tender lump develops which may remain for several weeks to several months but goes away eventually. Other less common risks include perforation (tear) of the bowel, drug reactions, and complications from unrelated diseases such as heart attack or stroke. Death is extremely rare, but remains a remote possibility.

What are the reasons for doing ERCP?

ERCP is a valuable tool for the diagnosis of many diseases of the pancreas, bile ducts, liver and gallbladder. An abnormality suspected by clinical history, blood tests or X-ray can be confirmed and studied in detail.

The cause of an obstruction to the flow of bile may be found in a patient who is jaundiced. The diagnosis may be made in a patient who is not jaundiced when symptoms suggest disease of the bile ducts or gallbladder. If a blocked duct is found, surgery may be required without delay.

In patients with suspected or known pancreatic disease, ERCP will help to determine the need for surgery and the best type of surgical procedure to be performed.

ERCP is an extremely worthwhile and safe procedure which is well tolerated. The decision to perform this procedure was based upon assessment of your particular problem. If you have any questions about your need for an ERCP, do not hesitate to speak to your doctor, who will also be happy to discuss the cost of the procedure, method of billing, and insurance coverage. Both of you share a common goal--your good health--and it can only be achieved through mutual trust, respect, and understanding.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL

@

474-8428 OR 1-800-874-4542 ext. 8428

ERCP Instructions

!!VERY IMPORTANT!!

**SOMEONE MUST COME WITH YOU TO STAY WITH YOU,
AND DRIVE YOU HOME
AFTER THE PROCEDURES!**

1. We recommend **NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK** after midnight the night before your procedure.
 2. Please fill out pre-anesthesia evaluation form and bring with you on the day of your procedure.
 3. Please be sure to bring your insurance cards and a picture ID in with you the day of your procedure.
 4. Do not take any of your medication the day of the procedure. Bring all your medication along with and take them afterwards. This includes patients who are diabetic and are on insulin.
 5. Let us know if you are **DIABETIC** or have any **HEART PROBLEMS** (including heart murmur).
 6. Let us know if you are taking **ARTHRITIS MEDICINE, BLOOD THINNERS (COUMADIN, PLAVIX), ASPIRIN or IRON TABLETS**, as you will have to stop these 5 days before your procedure.
- Park at the Ambulatory Surgical Center/Eye Institute. Check in at the Surgery waiting room on the 1st floor (next to the optical shop).

OR

- Park at West Florida Hospital. Check in at the information desk located at the main entrance of the hospital.

DATE: _____ **TIME:** _____

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL

@

850-474-8428 OR 800-874-4542 ext. 8428