

UPPER GI ENDOSCOPY (EGD) Procedure Information

Reasons for the test include: Diagnose and treat problems in your esophagus (swallowing tube), stomach, and first part of the small intestine (duodenum) to look for and treat the cause of GI symptoms, such as trouble swallowing, heartburn, indigestion, or abdominal pain, bleeding, and to look for ulcers, pre-cancerous conditions, and cancer.

Brief Description of the test: A flexible tube with a light and camera is passed through your mouth and used to look inside the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum.

The doctor may: Remove samples of tissue with a set of small tweezers (biopsy). Remove polyps (benign growths) with a tweezers or wire loop (snare). Treat or prevent bleeding by injecting medicines, applying heat (cautery) or placing clips or rubber bands. Stretch narrow areas with balloons or tapered dilators. Take photographs.

Other things you should know: Plan to be here 3-6 hours. The test usually takes about 10-30 minutes. Each procedure is different, and the length of procedure may vary, depending what the doctor sees during the procedure. There is some waiting time during check-in, before the test, and after the test in the GI lab and day surgery area. Occasionally there are emergency cases that can cause delays in the schedule. You will have a team of physicians and nurses caring for you, including a GI attending, GI fellow, GI endoscopy nurse, and GI endoscopy technician.

Many patients choose to have moderate sedation for procedures. This is medicine given by vein to make you sleepy and reduce pain. Some procedures are scheduled with sedation by the anesthesia service. If you have sedation of any kind, you should not drive, operate machinery, or make important decision until the day after the test. You must have someone to drive you home. If you do not want sedation, tell the scheduler before the procedure, or your nurse the day of the procedure.

You will be given a copy of the report when you leave, for your personal records. If samples of tissue are removed, they will be sent to the laboratory, we will send you a letter about the biopsy results in about 7-10 days. Results of the tests are also available for your regular physician in the electronic medical record.

Known risks of this treatment include, but are not limited to: Allergic reaction to medications. Change in blood pressure or heartbeat. Food or fluid your swallowing tube or esophagus may go into your lungs and cause trouble breathing or pneumonia. Bleeding may be caused by vomiting or retching, biopsies, removal of growths, or treatments. Severe bleeding may require blood transfusion or surgery. Tearing of the lining or wall of the esophagus, stomach, or small bowel may be caused by the endoscope or by treatment. A severe tear may require surgery. It is possible to damage or loosen teeth. It is possible that something important might be missed. There is a very small risk of death.

Please call the GI Lab at 214-857-1590, 214-857-1591, or 214-857-1567 if you have questions about your procedure or wish to speak with one of the nurses or doctors.