UPPER GI ENDOCOSOPY

What is an Upper GI Endoscopy?

An Upper GI Endoscopy is a test that uses a long, flexible tube with a small camera and light at the end to look closely at the digestive tract. The camera on the tip of the tube takes high quality pictures of the organs and tissues in the digestive system and shows them on a monitor. This test is used to diagnose and treat problems in the digestive system. It allows your doctor to see the esophagus (the tube that connects the throat to the stomach), the stomach and the beginning of the small intestine. If necessary, your doctor will be able to take a small tissue sample for testing.

Do I need to do anything to prepare for the endoscopy?

Yes. Your stomach must be empty to have the endoscopy. Please do not eat or drink anything after 12:00 am (midnight) on the night before the test.

Please tell the doctor if you take any aspirin, aspirin substitutes (like Motrin, Advil, etc.) or any medicines that contain aspirin. If you have questions about other medicines you are taking, please ask your doctor.

What will happen on the day I have my endoscopy?

When you arrive the nurse will help you change into a hospital gown and will put an IV (intravenous line) into your arm. We will ask you to sign a permission form for this test. Then, you will be taken to the room where we will do the endoscopy. The doctor will numb your throat with a spray and we will give you medications through your IV to make you sleepy. The tube (endoscopy) passes easily into the stomach and it does not make it difficult to breathe. The room will be dark during the procedure but a nurse will be close by if you need help.
What happens after the endoscopy?

After the procedure you will stay in the GI center for about an hour until the medicine wears off. You may feel bloating or you may “burp” because of the air that gets into your stomach through the tube. You will not be allowed to eat or drink for two hours after the procedure because your throat will still be numb. You may have a sore throat for a day or two.

You will need help to go home. Please make sure someone comes with you to the hospital on the day of the test. You will not be allowed to drive or to operate any large machines for the rest of the day. If you do not come to the test with a companion, we may need to reschedule the test.

Are there any risks?

Complications are rare. But when they do occur, they include: bleeding, infection, making a hole in the intestine, inflammation of the pancreas and allergic reactions to the medicines. If these complications occur, they may require treatment, transfusions, or surgery.

Be sure to call your doctor if you have pain that gets worse, vomiting, bleeding, black stools or a fever after having this test.

If you have any unusual pain or concerns after the test call (203) 785-4138.