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GASTROSCOPY Information

This is a procedure in which a flexible tube with a “video camera” at the tip is passed through the oesophagus, stomach and first part of the small bowel. It permits these areas to be inspected as well as specialised procedures such as biopsies to be performed.

Before the procedure a sedative injection is given into the vein to make you sleepy. The procedure is not painful and you may not remember much about it.

Gastroscopy is a safe procedure and complications are very rare. Bleeding may occur at a biopsy site but it is usually minimal and rarely requires follow-up. Other potential risks include a reaction to the sedative used, complications from heart or lung diseases, and perforation (a tear in the gastrointestinal tract lining).

GASTROSCOPY INSTRUCTIONS

An empty stomach is essential for a safe examination, so you should have **nothing to eat or drink, including water, for approximately six hours before the examination.** You may take your usual medications with a sip of water at least 2 hours before the test, unless instructed otherwise by your doctor.

If you take medication for **diabetes, Warfarin, Clopidogrel (Plavix), Xarelto or Pradaxa** please call us at least 5 days before the procedure.

You must **arrange for someone to accompany you home** because the sedatives may affect your judgment and reflexes for the rest of the day. You cannot drive or leave the hospital on your own.