

Patient Preparation for ERCP

(Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography)

YOUR EXAM IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Date: _____

Time: _____

LOCATION:

- SUNY Downstate Central Brooklyn**
University Hospital of Brooklyn
445 Lenox Road
Brooklyn, NY 11203
(718) 270-4788
Admitting Office (then proceed to Suite H, 1st Floor—Endoscopy Suite)

- SUNY Downstate Long Island College Hospital**
339 Hicks Street (corner of Atlantic Ave.)
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 780-1991
Admitting Office (then proceed to 6th Floor—Endoscopy Suite)
Subway: 2,3,4,5,J,M,R to Borough Hall or Jay Street
Buses: B61 or B63

- SUNY Downstate Bay Ridge**
9036 7th Avenue (at 92nd Street)
Brooklyn, NY 11228
(718) 567-1464
Urgent Care Center (then proceed to 6th Floor—Endoscopy Suite)
Subway: R to 95th Street
Buses: B70 to 92nd Street and 7th Ave., or
B12 to B16 to 95th Street, then walk ½ mile

If you have any questions or need to change or cancel your appointment, please call (718) 270-4772 or (718) 270-2283.

NOTE: Please arrive 1 hour before your scheduled exam.

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1 Week Before the Exam:

- If you take insulin, diabetes medications, clopidogrel (Plavix) or warfarin (Coumadin), please follow your doctor's specific instructions regarding these medications.

Day of the Exam:

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the exam.
- If you take insulin, diabetes medications, clopidogrel (Plavix) or warfarin (Coumadin), please follow your doctor's specific instructions regarding these medications.
- You may take all other medications, including high blood pressure medications, the morning of the exam with a sip of water.
- Bring a list of your medications with you to the test.

After the Exam:

- Please make sure you have an adult over the age of 18 available to take you home after the test. You will receive anesthesia and will not be permitted to go home alone.

What is ERCP?

Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, or ERCP, is a specialized technique used to study the bile ducts, pancreatic duct and gallbladder. Ducts are drainage routes; the drainage channels from the liver are called bile or biliary ducts. The pancreatic duct is the drainage channel from the pancreas.

How is ERCP performed?

During ERCP, your doctor will pass an endoscope through your mouth, esophagus and stomach into the duodenum (first part of the small intestine). An endoscope is a thin, flexible tube that lets your doctor see inside your bowels. After your doctor sees the common opening to the ducts from the liver and pancreas, called the major duodenal papilla, your doctor will pass a narrow plastic tube called a catheter through the endoscope and into the ducts. Your doctor will then inject a contrast material (dye) into the pancreatic or biliary ducts and take X-rays.

What Preparation is Required?

You should fast for at least eight hours (and preferably overnight) before the procedure to make sure you have an empty stomach, which is necessary for the best examination. Inform your doctor about all medications you take on a regular basis and follow the instructions on the previous page regarding medications. Notify your doctor of any allergies you have to medications or to intravenous contrast material (dye). Although an allergy doesn't prevent you from having ERCP, it's important to discuss it with your doctor prior to the procedure as you may require specific allergy medications before the ERCP. Also, be sure to tell your doctor if you have heart or lung conditions or other major diseases which might prevent or impact the decision to conduct endoscopy.

What Can I Expect During ERCP?

Your doctor will have an anesthesiologist administer sedation for your procedure. Some patients also receive antibiotics before the procedure. You will lie on your abdomen on an X-ray table. The instrument does not interfere with breathing, but you might feel a bloating sensation because of the air introduced through the instrument.

What are Possible Complications of ERCP?

ERCP is a well-tolerated procedure. Although complications requiring hospitalization can occur, they are uncommon. Complications can include pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), infections, bowel perforation and bleeding. Some patients can have an adverse reaction to the sedative used. Sometimes the procedure cannot be completed for technical reasons.

Risks vary, depending on why the test is performed, what is found during the procedure, what therapeutic intervention is undertaken, and whether a patient has major medical problems. Patients undergoing therapeutic ERCP, such as for stone removal, face a higher risk of complications than patients undergoing diagnostic ERCP. Your doctor will discuss your likelihood of complications before you undergo the test.

What Can I Expect After ERCP?

If you have ERCP as an outpatient, you will be observed for complications until most of the effects of the medications have worn off before being sent home. You might experience bloating or pass gas because of the air introduced during the examination. You can resume your usual diet unless you are instructed otherwise. Someone must accompany you home from the procedure because of the sedatives used during the examination. Even if you feel alert after the procedure, the sedatives can affect your judgment and reflexes for the rest of the day.

Because individual circumstances may vary, this handout may not answer all of your questions. Please ask your doctor about anything you don't understand.