



Associates in Gastroenterology: ERCP

GENERAL INFORMATION

ERCP (**E**ndoscopic **R**etrograde **C**holangio-**P**ancreatography) is a procedure that uses a flexible “scope” (a tube about the width of a finger, with a camera lens and light on the tip) to examine the first section of the small intestine, the bile ducts, and the pancreatic ducts. The procedure usually takes 30-90 minutes and is performed under deep sedation.

During the procedure, you will be lying flat on your abdomen with your head turned to your right side. After deep sedation is given, the scope is inserted in the mouth and gently advanced to the small intestine. In the small intestine, the “papilla” (a small projection where the bile duct and pancreatic duct secretions drain) is located, and a small catheter is gently inserted into the appropriate duct. Contrast dye is injected into the ducts and X-rays are used to determine the anatomy of the ducts and detect any abnormalities. In addition,

- Tissue samples (“biopsies” or “brushings”) may be taken.
- A bile duct stricture may be dilated (stretched) or held open with a stent (a small plastic tube).
- If gallstones are found in the bile ducts, the opening to the bile duct may be cut and made larger. Then, surgical instruments may be inserted into the bile duct to remove the stones.
- If the bile duct has a leak, a stent may be inserted to seal the leak.

ERCP COMPLICATIONS ARE UNUSUAL, BUT CAN OCCUR:

- After the procedure, you may feel abdominal pressure or bloating. Also, your throat may be slightly sore, but you should be able to eat a regular diet.
- **Minor or major bleeding**, possibly requiring hospitalization, blood transfusions, repeat endoscopy, or surgery.
- **Perforation of internal organs**, requiring hospitalization and emergency surgery.
- **Pancreatitis** (inflammation of the pancreas) may occur between 5-25% of the time. This is often mild, but can sometimes lead to low blood pressure, severe abdominal pain, organ failure, and death.
- **Infection** into the bile ducts or liver (called “cholangitis”).
- **Adverse reactions to medications**, possibly resulting in low blood pressure, irregular heart rhythms, difficulty breathing, or inflammation at the injection site.

ERCP PREPARATION

- Continue all prescription medicines, unless directed by your doctor.
- **If you take Aspirin, Plavix (clopidogrel), Coumadin (warfarin), or Pradaxa (dabigatran etexilate mesylate), please discuss with your doctor.**
- If you have **DIABETES**, take only half of your usual dose of diabetes medicine on the day of your endoscopy. If you have questions, please discuss this with your doctor.
- **STOP EATING 8 HOURS BEFORE THE PROCEDURE.** Drinking clear liquids is okay until 4 hours before the procedure.
*Nothing by mouth after _____.

YOU MUST ARRANGE FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE YOU HOME.

Because of the sedation, you are not permitted to drive, operate machinery, drink alcohol, or sign legal documents for at least 12 hours after the procedure. Your driver must be present to accompany you from the recovery area at the appropriate time. If your driver is not present, you may be charged a fee. You can plan on being discharged one hour after the start of your procedure.



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ASSOCIATES IN GASTROENTEROLOGY

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Your ERCP is scheduled

with Dr. _____ at _____ on _____ (mo/d/yr), at:

- Potomac Center at Sentara Medical Center, 2296 Opitz Blvd, 1st Floor, Suite 130, Woodbridge
- Stafford Hospital, 101 Hospital Center Blvd., outpatient registration, 1st Floor, Stafford
If scheduled at Stafford Hospital- CALL CENTRALIZED SCHEDULING 5 days prior to procedure to schedule a nurse's interview: 540-741-2000.
- Alexandria Hospital, 4320 Seminary Rd., outpatient registration, 1st Floor, Alexandria

****** PLEASE ARRIVE at _____ ON THE DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE. ******

Have questions? Please call the Woodbridge office: **703-580-0181**, Manassas office: **703-365-9085**, or the Mt. Vernon office: **703-360-0594**, Alexandria office: **703-823-3750**.

If it is after normal office hours, and you have an urgent question that cannot wait until the following business day, you may call the office and be connected to the physician on call.

IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL YOUR PROCEDURE, you must call the office. If you cancel within 3 business days of your procedure, **you will be charged one hundred fifty dollars (\$150)**.

I understand the potential benefits and risks of the procedure; that if my insurance plan does not consider this a covered benefit, I am responsible for these charges as well as any deductibles and/or co-insurances or co-pays as applicable; I am also aware of the cancellation fee.

Print Patient Name

Patient Signature

Date