

EGD INFORMATION

An EGD is a procedure that enables the physician to perform a careful, thorough examination of the esophagus, stomach and first portion of the small intestine (duodenum).

An EGD is performed to evaluate symptoms of persistent upper abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, difficulty swallowing or heartburn. It is an excellent method for finding the cause of bleeding from the upper gastrointestinal tract.

EGD's are also indicated for detecting inflammation, ulcers or tumors of the esophagus, stomach and duodenum. An EGD can detect early cancer and can distinguish between cancerous and non-cancerous conditions by performing biopsies of suspicious areas. A biopsy is taken for many reasons and does not always mean that cancer is suspected.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE AN EGD

To complete a successful EGD, the stomach must be clean so that Dr. Hutzenbuhler can clearly view the lining. It is very important that you read and follow all of the instructions given to you for your preparation well in advance of the procedure. Without proper preparation, the procedure will not be successful and the test may have to be repeated or rescheduled.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN EGD

During an EGD, patients lie on their left side on an examination table. IV anesthesia, administered by either an anesthesiologist or a nurse anesthetist helps keep patients asleep and pain free. A flexible tube is inserted into the mouth and advanced down the esophagus, stomach and duodenum. The procedure usually lasts between 15 and 30 minutes.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AN EGD

You will stay in a recovery area for observation until you are ready for discharge. You will NOT be permitted to drive for the remainder of the day. You will receive specific discharge instructions from the Raleigh Endoscopy Center or Rex Hospital.