

DIGESTIVE DISEASE SPECIALISTS, INC.

Northwest (Baptist Medical Center) Office
Robert A. Rankin, MD
3366 NW Expressway, Suite 380
Oklahoma City OK 73112
(405) 702-1300 or Toll-Free: (800) 878-6177

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD)

You are scheduled for an EGD to be performed at _____ on _____. Check in at _____ (am/pm). The procedure is scheduled for _____ (am/pm).

An EGD allows direct visualization of the lining of the esophagus, stomach and first part of the small intestine with a long, flexible camera scope. The scope is passed through the mouth and back of the throat into the upper digestive tract. Abnormalities suspected on X-ray can be confirmed and others may be detected that are too small to be seen on X-ray. If the doctor sees a suspicious area, he can pass an instrument through the endoscope and take a small piece of tissue (a biopsy) for examination in the laboratory. The scope will not interfere with your breathing. Gagging is prevented by local anesthetic sprayed into the back of your throat.

It is necessary for you to make arrangements **ahead of time** for someone to accompany you to your appointment. This person must be able to drive you home, and must be able to stay in the facility during the procedure. You will not be able to drive yourself or to take a cab after your procedure due to the sedation you will receive during your examination.

PREP for EGD: In order for the doctor to have a clear view of your upper digestive tract, it must be completely empty, so you should have nothing to eat or drink, including water, from midnight the evening before the procedure. When you arrive in the endoscopy department, you will be asked to sign a permit to authorize the doctor to perform the exam. Your vital signs will be obtained and you will be asked to put on a hospital gown. You will then be asked to remove any dentures, partials or mouth jewelry. Please wear comfortable clothing and leave all jewelry/valuables at home.

MEDICATIONS: You should take all of your prescribed medications like normal with the following exceptions: **Stop** aspirin, iron and coumadin three (3) days prior to your procedure and if on insulin, take ½ your normal dose. If you are taking “blood thinners”, diabetes medications or seizure medications please contact the nurse immediately. Inform your doctor if you are allergic to any medications and bring a list of all current medications with you to your appointment.

Possible Risks/Complications: EGD is safe and is associated with an extremely low risk when performed by specially trained physicians who are experienced in this endoscopic procedure. Complications can occur but are rare, averaging only one in several thousand exams. One rare complication is perforation, in which a tear in the wall of the GI tract may allow leakage of digestive fluids. This complication may be managed by aspirating the fluids until the opening heals, or may require surgery. Bleeding may occur from the site of the biopsy. It is usually minimal but rarely may require transfusions and/or surgery. Other rare risks include drug reactions and complications from unrelated diseases such as heart attack or stroke.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE: When you return home you may use lozenges or chloraseptic spray if your throat is sore. Any unusual symptoms over the next day or so (fever, unusual chest pains, dark black bowel movements, etc.) may indicate a complication and should be brought to the attention of your physician immediately.