

## What is a Gastroscopy?

Gastroscopy is a procedure which enables a physician to directly image and examine the upper digestive system with a tiny camera on the end of a long, flexible tube (called gastroscope).



## What are the uses of Gastroscopy?

Gastroscopy is used to diagnose and, sometimes, treat conditions that affect the esophagus, stomach and beginning of the small intestine (duodenum). Symptoms that require a gastroscopy may include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, reflux, trouble swallowing, and bleeding (vomiting blood or dark blood in the stools).



## What is the advantage of gastroscopy over other available tests?

A key advantage of this technique is that it allows both imaging of abnormal findings and also tissue sampling or removal of these abnormalities during the same examination.

## Is Gastroscopy painful, will I be sedated?

No, gastroscopy is usually not painful! Almost all gastroscopies can be performed using “intravenous conscious sedation” (also known as twilight sedation) in which you are very drowsy, sleepy, and comfortable. Your doctor can discuss with you the best form of sedation to suit your needs.

## How do I prepare for a Gastroscopy?

You will need to stop drinking and eating after midnight the night before your gastroscopy to ensure your stomach is empty for the procedure.

## Are there any complications from Gastroscopy?

Gastroscopy has been found to be extremely safe when performed by a well-trained physician. Although extremely rare, complications can occur and may be related to sedation administration (cardiac and respiratory problems) or to injury to the lining during performance of the test (torn esophagus or stomach, bleeding). In the vast majority of cases, the benefits of the procedure outweigh the minimal risk of complications.

## When can I get the results of the Gastroscopy?

Once the patient wakes up (typically within 30 minutes of completion of the procedure), the physician will provide the preliminary results. If biopsies (pieces of tissues) were taken, they are usually sent to the laboratory and the results are back in 2 to 3 days.

## What to expect after the Gastroscopy?

You'll need someone to take you home because it can take up to a day for the full effects of the sedative to wear off (you may feel drowsy and sleepy for several hours). Don't drive or make important decisions or go back to work for the rest of the day.



## Gastroscopy (Upper Endoscopy)

### What you need to know

For any questions or clarifications do not hesitate to call your doctor or call Endoscopy unit

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