



Gastroenterology Department
Upper Endoscopy under General Anaesthetic
Information for parents and carers

Introduction

Your child is to have an endoscopy. This fact sheet aims to give you information on the procedure. If you have any questions about the procedure please discuss these with the doctor or nurse before your child goes to theatre.

What is an Endoscope?

It is a flexible tube with a camera on the end that allows us to see inside your child's bowel.

What is an Endoscopy?

An endoscopy is the name of the procedure at which an endoscope is passed into your child's bowel whilst they are under general anaesthetic i.e. whilst they are asleep. Your letter will advise you when to stop your child eating and drinking.

Your child should know why they are having the procedure, that they will be fully anaesthetised throughout the procedure and will not feel or remember anything about the procedure.

During the endoscopy we will look at the inside of your child's bowel and take small pieces from the lining of the bowel (biopsies) which will be analysed in our laboratory to give us vital information. They do not hurt your child. Most children will be ready to go home a few hours after the procedure.

Before your child goes to theatre for the endoscopy, they will be seen by an Anaesthetist. You should discuss anything you want to know about your child's anaesthetic with him/her.

What is an Upper Endoscopy?

This involves the passage of the endoscope into the mouth, oesophagus, stomach and duodenum. Your child may be in theatre for up to 45 minutes for the procedure including anaesthetic and recovery time. This is the approximate time your child will be away from the ward)

What are the benefits to my child of having endoscopy?

The test will give us the information we need to treat your child's condition. If we find anything unusual (for example Polyps), we may be able to treat it during the procedure.

What are the risks to my child of having an Endoscopy?

The potential risks of having an endoscopy are small. The risks include

- **Injury to teeth**
Every precaution will be taken to prevent this.

- **Temporary sore throat**
This usually settles after a few days.
- **Bleeding**
There may be a little bleeding if a tissue sample has been taken.
- **Failure to complete the test**
There may be areas where it is not possible to pass the scope.
- **Perforation (hole in the bowel wall)**
This occurs less frequently than one for every 1000 procedures.
If it does occur your child may require an operation to repair the bowel.

If you have any concerns regarding your child after they have been discharged i.e. abdominal pain, please contact your GP or local Accident & Emergency Department.

When will the results of the Endoscopy be available?

You will be told on the same day what the doctor saw when the endoscopy was performed.

The biopsies take several days to prepare and look at. A biopsy report will be sent to your G.P, and discussed with you at a follow-up clinic.

Where can you get more information about having an Endoscopy?

If you would like any more information please call, Gastroenterology Nurse Specialists on:
0151 252 5190

This fact sheet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Eaton Road
Liverpool
L12 2AP
0151 228 4811
www.alderhey.nhs.uk

