

Patient Information: Gastroscopy

Gastroscopy is an examination of the esophagus, stomach and duodenum with an instrument called an endoscope.

INDICATIONS: Most procedures are for diagnostic purposes, and may include the taking of biopsies (tissue samples) from the lining of the bowel for examination by a pathologist. Sometimes the procedure is used for stretching (dilating) a narrowed portion of the esophagus, or for the removal of polyps found during the examination.

RISKS: Gastroscopy is very safe, but as with all medical procedures there is some risk. Sedative drugs can cause heart or lung complications. Very rarely the endoscope can make a hole in the bowel – this is called a perforation. The risk of bowel perforation is thought to be about 1 in 10,000. Both removal of polyps and dilation of a narrowing in the esophagus are associated with a risk of bleeding and a slightly increased risk of perforation. If these complications occur transfusion or surgery may be required. Extremely rarely these complications can be fatal. Minor complications are relatively common and include abdominal pain or discomfort at the site of injection of sedative drugs.

COSTS: We do not charge a gap for endoscopy services. The only cost from your procedure should be the excess upon making a claim on your private health insurance. This can vary depending on the insurer and the policy - we suggest you confirm this with them prior to your procedure. The Medicare item number for gastroscopy is 30473. Pathology services (examination of polyps or biopsies) may also incur an out of pocket cost. If uninsured we can provide a cost estimate.

PREPARATION: Fast (nothing to eat or drink) from 6 hours prior to the time you are told to attend for your procedure. This is often simplified to fast from

Morning Procedure- Fast from Midnight the night before.

Afternoon Procedure- Fast from 8 AM the morning of an afternoon procedure.

MEDICATION: Diabetics should discuss diabetic medication (injections or tablets) with their doctor. You may continue taking other medication/tablets unless directed otherwise. Even on the day of the procedure you may take essential medication at the usual time with a small volume (sips) of water.

PROCEDURE DETAILS: Before the procedure, you will see the anesthetists. The details of your procedure are:

Place: Warringal Private Hospital - Admissions
216 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg. 3084

Date: _____

Time: Warringal will confirm your admission time on the previous working day
(Often they can call late the day before.)

FOLLOWING YOUR PROCEDURE: Do not drive, operate machinery, or perform skilled tasks until the following day, as sedative drugs may affect your concentration or co-ordination. You will be ready for discharge about two hours after the procedure – up to 4 hours after arrival. Please arrange to have someone drive you home. It is best not to be alone on the day of the test. Your doctor will indicate recommended follow-up in the procedure report.

If you have any queries please ring our Heidelberg rooms on 9459 9522 opt.3