

TRIANGLE GASTROENTEROLOGY

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Prep Instructions for ERCP

What is an ERCP?

Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) is a specialized procedure that studies the ducts of the gallbladder, pancreas and the liver. These ducts are the drainage routes that channel from the liver and the gallbladder to form bile ducts. The bile and pancreatic ducts join together and drain into the upper bowel in an opening known as papilla, which is surrounded by a circular muscle called the sphincter of oddi.

What will happen?

There will be a local anesthetic sprayed into your throat and sedative will be given intravenously, to make you more comfortable. The doctor will then pass an endoscope through your mouth, esophagus and the stomach, which leads down to the duodenum. The doctor will then see the opening for the common bile duct.

Types of Treatment

Sphincterotomy – Is the cutting of muscle that surrounds the opening of the ducts, or the papilla which helps enlarge the opening. It does not cause any discomfort.

Stone Removal – Is the removal of stones in the bile ducts that formed in the gallbladder and traveled into the bile duct or they formed in the bile ducts related to removal of the gallbladder. At this time, the doctor will remove or break them up in order to extract them.

Stent Placement – Is the process of stents being placed in the bile ducts or pancreatic ducts in order to bypass strictures or narrowing parts of the duct which is related to scar tissue or tumors that can cause a blockage of normal drainage.

Balloon Dilation – Is the inflation of a dilating balloon that helps stretch out the narrowing of the ducts to help free up drainage.

Tissue Sampling – Is taking a sample of tissue from the papilla, bile or pancreatic ducts by way of brushing of the cells in that area.

Risks

Pancreatitis (inflammation or infection of the pancreas), infections, bowel perforation and bleeding may occur, but there is a low risk and it can be treated without surgery.

Preparation

For **one** (1) week prior to the procedure do not take Aspirin, Motrin, Aleve, Naproxen, Ibuprofen, BC Powder, Goody Powder, Plavix, Coumadin, Pradaxa or Aggrenox . For pain you can take Tylenol, Hydrocodone or Oxycodone.

Please contact the office if you have a contrast allergy to shellfish, iodine or IV dye.

Please do not eat or drink anything after midnight the day of your procedure.

Date: _____

Hospital: _____

Arrival Time: _____

Procedure Time: _____

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 919-881-9999.