

Notes:

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio-pancreatography)

VG Site

My specialist: _____

Phone: _____

Aussi disponible en français : FF85-1503
متوفر أيضاً باللغة العربية.
Also available in Arabic: AR85-1476

For the next 24 hours (1 day) after sedation:

- Do not drive a car or use any heavy machinery.
- Do not drink alcohol.
- Do not care for others (including children).
- Do not sign any legal or important papers, or make any financial (money) decisions.

Call your doctor if you have any of these symptoms after your test:

- > Stomach pain
- > Fever (temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F)
- > Chills
- > Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- > Vomiting (throwing up)
- > Black or very dark poop

If you cannot reach your doctor, go to the nearest Emergency Department right away.

What will happen after the test?

- A nurse will check your blood pressure and pulse.
- You will be able to go home about 1 to 2 hours after the test.
- A nurse will take the I.V. out before you go home.
- **Do not eat or drink for 3 hours after the test.**
- **Drink only clear fluids (water, tea or coffee without milk, apple juice, soup broth, Gatorade®) for the rest of the day.**
- You will be able to go back to your usual meals the day after your test.

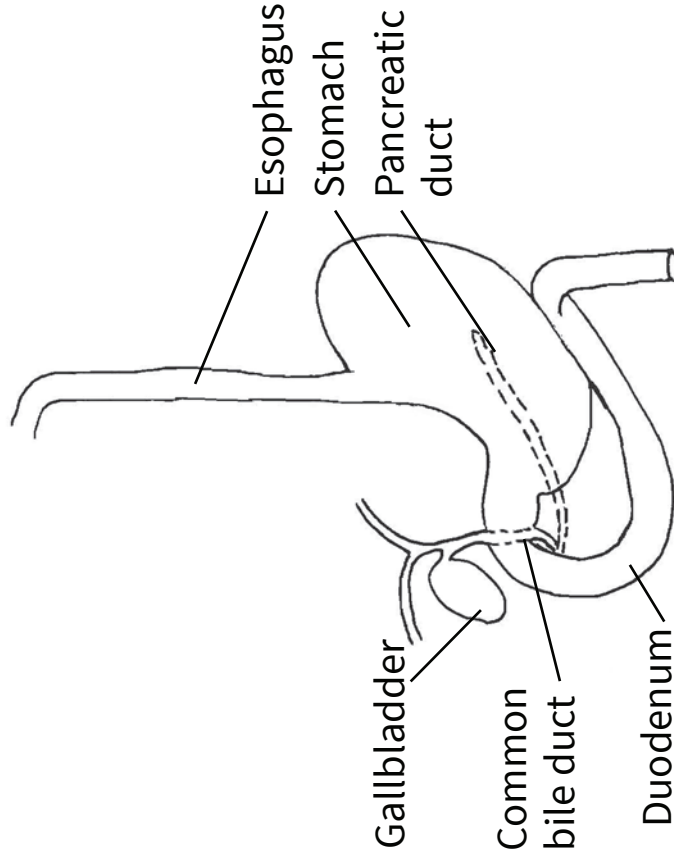
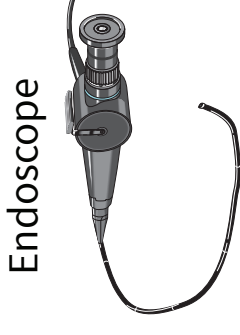
If you had sedation:

- You must have a responsible adult take you home after your test and stay with you overnight.
- Do not walk home. You may take a bus or a taxi home only if a responsible adult goes with you.

ERCP

What is an ERCP?

- This is a test to look at your:
 - › Common bile duct
 - › Pancreatic duct
 - › Gallbladder
- The test is done by a specialist using an endoscope (a flexible tube with a light on the end).



What are the risks of this test?

An ERCP is a very low risk test. As with any test, there are still some risks. Your specialist will talk with you about the risks before your test.

Possible risks include:

- › Pancreatitis (inflammation or infection of the pancreas) (5 to 10% chance)
- › Bleeding (1% chance)
- › An infection (1% chance)
- › A tear in your bowel (less than 1% chance). If this happens, you may need surgery to fix the tear.
- › Complications that require you to stay in the hospital (not common)
- › A reaction to the sedation medication
- › Soreness and/or a lump where the intravenous (I.V.) tube was put in. These should go away over a few weeks.
- › The specialist may not be able to finish the test because of technical problems

Tell your specialist if you have heart or lung disease.

How is the test done?

- An I.V. tube will be put in your hand or arm. You may be given medication to help you relax, and to help with any pain.
- You may be asked to gargle or have your throat sprayed with a liquid that will numb (freeze) your throat. After your throat is numb, you will not be able to gag for a short time. This will make it easier when the specialist puts the endoscope in.
- The specialist will pass the endoscope through your mouth, esophagus, stomach, and duodenum into your common bile duct, gallbladder, and pancreatic duct.
- As the endoscope passes through your throat, you may feel like you need to gag. You will be able to breathe normally and should not have any pain.
- The specialist will use the endoscope to inject dye and then take X-rays. The X-rays will show the common bile duct, gallbladder, and pancreatic duct. The specialist may also make a tiny cut in the opening to the ducts from the liver and the pancreas.
- The test will take about 60 minutes (1 hour).

- **Do not wear any jewelry or bring any valuables with you to the hospital.** The hospital is not responsible for the loss of any items.
- **Do not use scented products.** Nova Scotia Health is scent-free.

Where do I go for my test?

You must register at the kiosk on the main floor of either the Dickson Building (main entrance) or the Centennial Building (main entrance).

- Then go to the 9th floor of the Victoria Building at the Victoria General (VG) site. Check in at the registration desk.
- Be sure that you have enough time to park before your appointment. Parking at the VG site is limited.

How do I get ready for this test?

- You will have sedation (medication to help you relax) during this test.**
- **You must have a responsible adult:**
 - › stay in the hospital during your test.
 - › take you home after your test.
 - › stay with you overnight.

If this is not possible, call your doctor before the test. We may have to cancel your test.

Before your test:

- A booking clerk will call you to give you information about your appointment.
- We will give you the name of the specialist who will do your test, and the date, time, and place of your test.
- Plan to be off work the day of your test.
- Most people can go back to work the day after their test.
- Your specialist will arrange for you to have a blood test.

- Call your specialist if you need antibiotics for tests or dental work. Ask your specialist if you are not sure.
- **Tell the booking clerk and your specialist if you are taking these medications as these can raise your risk of bleeding:**
 - › Blood thinners like ASA (Aspirin[®]), warfarin, heparin (Fragmin[®]), dabigatran (Pradaxa[®]), rivaroxaban (Xarelto[®]), apixaban (Eliquis[®]), edoxaban (Lixiana[®])
 - › Antiplatelets like clopidogrel (Plavix[®]), prasugrel, ticagrelor (Brilinta[®])
- Tell your specialist if you take medication and/or insulin for diabetes. You may need to follow special instructions for taking these before your test.
- Tell your specialist if you are allergic to any medications.

If you need to cancel your test, please call so that we can book another patient.

› Phone: 902-473-6542

The day of your test

It is very important to follow these instructions:

- **Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the day before your test.**
- If your test is in the afternoon, your specialist will tell you if it is OK to have clear fluids before 8 a.m. Clear fluids include:
 - › Water
 - › Clear or light-coloured pop (like Sprite[®] or ginger ale)
 - › Apple juice
 - › Sports drinks (like Gatorade[®] or Powerade[®]) **that are not red**
 - › Tea (**without milk or cream**)
 - › Clear soup broth
- If you take medication for your heart, blood pressure, or breathing, take your medication as usual.
- Bring your blood glucose testing supplies with you to the hospital, if needed.
- **Bring a list of all your medications** (including prescription and over-the-counter medications, inhalers, creams, eye drops, patches, herbal medications, vitamins, and supplements) with you to the hospital.