

COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

COLONOSCOPY AND GASTROSCOPY

LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY

GASTROINTESTINAL PHYSIOLOGY

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INFORMATION SHEET FOR GASTROSCOPY PATIENTS

Your doctor has requested that you undergo a gastroscopy. This is an information sheet designed to allow you to give informed consent to proceed with gastroscopy.

What is gastroscopy?

Gastroscopy is a diagnostic test which involves the passage of a flexible scope down through the mouth into the gullet, stomach and duodenum. It allows direct visualisation of any abnormalities in these regions, allows biopsies to confirm the diagnosis of any abnormality and allows biopsies to determine whether or not an infection is present in the upper part of the intestines.

How is it performed?

You will attend as a Day Patient at the appointed hospital. An anaesthetist will be present. A small drip will be inserted into the back of your hand or arm. You will be given heavy intravenous sedation and will sleep through most of the procedure. Generally, patients have no recollection of the procedure afterwards and there is minimal discomfort.

What are the risks of the procedure?

The risks of gastroscopy are extremely small. These include:

1. **Bleeding or perforation.** There is a very small risk (in the order of between 1 in 2,000-5,000) of you suffering significant bleeding or a perforation (hole) in the lining of your upper intestines, stomach or gullet. Whilst this risk is small, there is a theoretical possibility that you would need to undergo surgery as a result of the procedure. The risk of death after gastroscopy is extremely remote.
2. **Damage to your teeth or dentures.** All care is taken during the procedure to protect your teeth or dentures but patients will occasionally, involuntarily, bite during the procedure and this may cause fracturing of your teeth or dentures. We can unfortunately not accept responsibility for any damage to your teeth or dentures.
3. **Infection.** There is a small theoretical risk that infection could be transmitted through the gastroscope. This risk is exceedingly small. All scopes are sterilized in accordance with guidelines laid down by the Australian Gastroenterological Society and these are meticulously followed. This minimizes any risk of infection.

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(Information sheet for Gastroscopycont'd)

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Other there any alternatives to gastroscopy?

Depending upon your clinical condition, there are occasionally alternatives available and you may wish to discuss these with your doctor. It is rare for these alternatives to be as effective an investigation as gastroscopy itself.

You will be asked to sign an informed consent sheet at the time of your gastroscopy. This implies that you have read these instructions carefully and have no further questions to have answered. It also implies that you are prepared to accept the very small risk involved with undergoing this procedure. In making this consideration, it is worth remembering that any small risk of the procedure is generally outweighed by the very significant potential gains of clearly diagnosing and allowing adequate management for any abnormality you may be suffering from. If you have any queries prior to signing the informed consent sheet, please contact Mr McMurrick directly.

Travel to and from your procedure

You will not be able to drive for the rest of the day after your procedure, sign contracts or work machinery.

Paul J McMurrick FRACS

Victorian Colorectal Clinic