Oesophago-Gastro Duodenoscopy (OGD) with treatment of varices

Patient information

Endoscopy Unit,
The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

Endoscopy Nurses: 0131 242 1600
Endoscopy Booking Line: 0131 536 4162

This document contains important information about your upcoming investigation and should be read immediately, giving you time for questions, if you have any.

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Introduction

You have been advised by your GP or hospital doctor to have a procedure known as an oesophago-gastro-duodenoscopy (OGD), also known simply as a “gastroscopy”, and possible treatment of varices (varicose veins) in the oesophagus or stomach using either banding or injection therapy.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please notify the booking line on 0131 536 4162 as soon as possible. This will enable the staff to arrange another date and time for you (and give your appointment to someone else)

It is essential that you read this booklet thoroughly and carefully.
Please bring this booklet and appointment letter with you when you attend.

Consent
This procedure requires your formal consent. This booklet has been written to enable you to make an informed decision about agreeing to the procedure. At the back of the booklet is the consent form.

The consent form is a legal document, therefore please read it carefully. Once you have read and understood all the information, including the possibility of complications, and you agree to undergo the procedure, please sign and date the consent form. You will notice that the consent form is duplicated, allowing you to keep a copy for your records. Please fill it in while it is still attached to this booklet.

If however there is anything you do not understand or wish to discuss further, but still wish to attend, do not sign the form, but bring it with you so that you can sign it after you have spoken further to the endoscopy staff.

If having read the information you do not wish to go ahead with the procedure, or want to consider alternative methods of investigation, please discuss with your GP or hospital doctor as soon as possible before the date of your appointment

Sedation
If you are having sedation, the drug can remain in your system for up to 24 hours and you may feel drowsy later on, with intermittent lapses of memory.

If you are having a procedure under sedation, you MUST have someone available to accompany you home, and if you live alone, to stay with you overnight.

If this is not possible it may be necessary to be admitted overnight after the procedure. Please notify the department as soon as possible if this is the case.

FAILURE TO DO THIS MAY RESULT IN YOUR TEST BEING CANCELLED ON THE DAY.
General information about the procedure

What is an OGD?
The procedure you will be having is called an oesophago-gastro-duodenoscopy (OGD), sometimes known more simply as a gastroscopy.

This is an examination of your oesophagus (gullet), stomach and the first part of your small intestine called the duodenum. The instrument used in this investigation is called a gastroscope. It is flexible and has a diameter less than that of a little finger. The gastroscope relays images back the Endoscopist on a TV screen.

During the investigation, the Endoscopist may need to take some tissue samples (biopsies) from the lining of your upper digestive tract for analysis, this is painless. The samples may be retained. Photographs and/or a video recording may be taken for your records.

The procedure will be performed by, or under the supervision of, a trained doctor or nurse Endoscopist, and we will make the investigation as comfortable as possible for you. Many patients have the procedure carried out only with local anaesthetic throat spray, some patients have it performed under “conscious sedation” in which a drug is given by injection into a vein to make you relaxed and lightly drowsy, without being unconscious.

Your OGD is more involved than having a straightforward inspection. The Endoscopist is also using the procedure to give you treatment for your condition. This is known as a therapeutic gastroscopy; in this case the therapy is called Banding or Injection of varices.

Treatment of varices
These are swollen veins, usually in the oesophagus (gullet) or stomach, rather like varicose veins, which form when blood flow through the liver is disturbed. These veins can bleed, causing you to vomit blood, (possibly in large quantities), so it is important to try to shrink or obliterate them if possible. This can be done by applying small rubber bands around the veins through an endoscope, or sometimes by injecting the veins with a substance to cause clotting.

What are the alternatives?
Patients with varices, which have not yet bled, may be advised to take medication, which lowers the pressure and the risk of bleeding. This is a safe alternative for some patients, but if you have been advised to have endoscopic treatment it will mean that this is not considered a good option for you, or that some bleeding has already occurred.

How long will I be in the Endoscopy department?
This largely depends on whether you have had sedation and how busy the department is. You should expect to be in the department for approximately 5-6 hours. The department also looks after emergencies and these can take priority over our outpatient lists.

You may be in the department some time before the investigation; therefore you may want to bring something to read. **We recommend you do not bring any valuable items with you to the hospital.**
Preparation for the procedure

Eating and drinking
It is important to have clear views and for this the stomach must be empty.

- If your appointment is in the **morning**, take no food or drinks after midnight
- If your appointment is in the **afternoon**, you may have a light breakfast (tea & toast) no later than 8am, but no food or drinks after that.
- Small amounts of **water** are ok to take up to two hours before the procedure.

What about my medication?
Your routine medication should be taken.

For people with diabetes
If you have diabetes that is controlled by insulin or medication, please ensure the Endoscopy department is aware so that the appointment can be made at the beginning of the list. Please see guidelines printed in the back of this booklet.

Anticoagulants
Please telephone the unit on 0131 2421600 if you are taking blood-thinning drugs such as Warfarin or Clopidogrel.

If you have any other queries regarding your medications please telephone the Endoscopy Unit on 0131 2421600.

Allergies
Please telephone the endoscopy unit on 0131 242 1600 for information if you think you have a latex allergy.

What happens when I arrive?
When you arrive in the department, a qualified nurse or health care assistant will meet you and will ask you a few questions, including about your arrangements for getting home. You will also be able to ask further questions about the investigation. The nurse will ensure you understand the procedure and discuss any outstanding concerns or questions you may have. If you are having sedation they may insert a small cannula (plastic tube) into a vein in your arm through which sedation will be administered later.

You will have a brief medical assessment where a nurse will ask you some questions regarding your medical condition and any surgery or illnesses you have had. This is to confirm that you are fit to undergo the investigation. Your blood pressure and heart rate will be recorded, and if you have diabetes, your blood glucose level will also be recorded.

If you have not already done so, and you are happy to proceed, you will be asked to sign your consent form at this point.
The OGD investigation

You will be escorted into the procedure room where the Endoscopist and the nurses will introduce themselves. You will also be able to ask further questions about the investigation.

If you have any dentures you will be asked to remove them at this point. Any remaining teeth will be protected by a small plastic mouth guard, which will be inserted immediately before the examination starts.

If you are having local anaesthetic throat spray, this will be sprayed on to the back of your throat whilst you are sitting up and swallowing: the effect is rapid and you will notice loss of sensation of your tongue and throat. The nurse looking after you will ask you to lie on your left side.

If you are having sedation, the medication will be administered into the cannula in your vein, which will make you relaxed and lightly drowsy but not unconscious. This means that, although drowsy, you will still hear what is said to you and therefore will be able to follow simple instructions during the investigation. Some patients experience amnesia with the sedation so that afterwards they remember very little of the procedure, but this does not always happen.

During the procedure we will monitor your breathing, heart rate and oxygen levels. This is done by means of a probe attached to your finger or earlobe. Your blood pressure may also be recorded during the procedure using a cuff, which will inflate on your arm from time to time.

You may also be given oxygen to breathe through a mask or small tubes placed at your nose. Any saliva or other secretions produced during the investigation will be removed using a small suction tube like the one used at the dentist.

The Endoscopist will introduce the gastroscope into your mouth, and by asking you to swallow can pass it down your oesophagus, into your stomach and then into your duodenum. Your windpipe is deliberately avoided and your breathing will be unhindered.

Treatment of Varices

If you are having banding treatment, after an initial examination, the gastroscope is removed, and then reinserted with the rubber bands attached. Suction is applied to the veins using the gastroscope, which allows rubber bands to be released over them. With injection treatment a needle is passed through the middle of the gastroscope and the veins are injected with a medication that makes them clot. The veins shrivel up after a day or two. To completely clear all the veins a series of procedures over several weeks may be necessary.

Sedation or throat spray?

Local anaesthetic throat spray or conscious sedation can improve your comfort during the procedure and help the Endoscopist perform the procedure successfully. Treatment of varices is usually performed under conscious sedation, but patients who have had repeat treatments sometimes opt for local anaesthetic only.
Local anaesthetic throat spray
With this method the throat is numbed with a local anaesthetic spray. As gastrosopes have become thinner, many patients are happy for the procedure to be carried out with throat spray only. The main benefit of choosing throat spray is that you can go home unaccompanied almost immediately after the procedure with no restriction on driving or normal activities. The only constraint is that you must not have anything to eat or drink for about 30 minutes after the procedure, until the sensation in your mouth and throat has returned to normal. You will be given your first drink before discharge.

Conscious sedation
A short acting sedative drug is injected through a cannula in your vein. This is mainly to relax you, but can also make you drowsy. Some patients experience amnesia, do not remember the procedure afterwards and interpret this as having been unconscious for the procedure, though this is not the case. The time to recovery from sedation varies, but can take a few hours.

If you have sedation, you will need someone to accompany you home and stay with you until the following day. You should not drive, take alcohol, care for dependents, sign any legally binding documents or operate machinery or potentially hazardous household appliances for 24 hours following the procedure.

Risks of the procedure
The doctor who has requested the procedure will have considered and discussed this with you. The risks must be compared to the benefit of having the procedure carried out. There are three sets of procedural risks you should be aware of:

1. Risks associated with intravenous sedation
Sedation can occasionally cause problems with breathing, heart rate and blood pressure. If any of these problems do occur, they are normally short lived. Careful monitoring by a fully trained endoscopy nurse ensures that any potential problems can be identified and treated rapidly.
Older patients and those who have significant health problems (for example, people with significant breathing difficulties due to a bad chest) may be assessed by a doctor before having the procedure. In these situations it may be advised that a lesser degree of sedation is used, as the risks of complications from sedation may be higher.

2. Risks associated with endoscopic examination and biopsy
Gastroscopy is generally a very safe investigation, but as with any invasive procedure it has the possibility of complications. A sore throat after the procedure is the most common side effect. More serious complications occur infrequently but can include:

Damage to teeth. For this reason dentures are removed and you will be asked about loose teeth, crowns or bridgework
Chest infection can occur after the procedure if some fluid passes into the lungs. The risk of this is greater with procedures requiring heavier sedation. Treatment with antibiotics may be necessary.
Bleeding from the site of a biopsy. This is usually minor and stops on its own
Perforation (or tear) of the lining or wall of the digestive tract. This is very rare with a diagnostic examination only, but can occur more often with the more complex procedures involving endoscopic treatment (see below). A perforation would require admission to hospital for treatment with fluids and antibiotics, and might require surgery to repair the tear.

3. Risks associated with the endoscopic treatment of your condition
Endoscopic treatment has revolutionised the way in which some diseases are treated. It is often the case that conditions previously only treated by surgery can now be dealt with using endoscopy. The specific risks associated with endoscopic treatment you are having are described below.

The occurrence of any of these may delay your discharge from hospital. It is important to appreciate that a serious complication in rare circumstances could prove fatal.

Treatment of varices
The presence of varices usually indicates that there is serious liver disease present. Before the development of endoscopic techniques, varices were either left untreated, treated by major surgery or by complex X-ray techniques. There are rare but serious complications which you should be aware of, but these still represent a relatively low risk compared to the risk of life-threatening bleeding from varices, or complications of major surgery:

Immediately following the procedure
You might notice some chest discomfort but this should pass after a few hours.
It is likely that the back of your throat will feel a little sore for a few hours afterwards.
Occasionally the procedure does cause some bleeding but this is usually not serious and settles quickly. Hospital admission would be required if it persisted.

Over the next few days
The action of injection or banding usually causes ulcers to form over the varices. This, in turn, can cause some soreness on swallowing for a few days after the procedure.

Other complications
These are rare, but can include:
Perforation (or tear) of the oesophagus
Extension of the clot formed into more major veins of the liver or spinal cord, resulting in damage
Infection of the blood
After the procedure

Your blood pressure and heart rate will be recorded and if you have diabetes, your blood glucose will be monitored. Should you have underlying breathing difficulties, or if your oxygen levels were low during the procedure, we will continue to monitor your breathing.

Once you have recovered from the initial effects of any sedation it will be necessary to check that there are no immediate complications. This may involve you having a chest x-ray and being asked to swallow some water. Once you are awake and have recovered from the initial effects of the sedation (which normally take 30-60 minutes) you will be given instructions on what to eat and drink prior to discharge.

Before you leave the department, the nurse or Endoscopist will discuss the findings and any medication or further investigations required. They will also tell you if you need further appointments, and you will also be given some written information.

If the person accompanying you has left the department, the nursing staff will telephone them when you are ready for discharge.

Because the sedative remains in your system for about 24 hours, you may feel drowsy later on, with intermittent lapses of memory.

Points to remember

- If you are having sedation, you must have someone to accompany you

- Our aim is for you to be seen and have your procedure as soon as possible after your arrival. However, the department is very busy and also deals with emergencies so it is possible under these circumstances that your procedure may be delayed.

- The hospital cannot accept any responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property during your time on these premises
Information for patients with diabetes
You should inform the Endoscopy department about your diabetes and request an early morning appointment.

The day of the procedure

Diet-controlled and tablet-controlled diabetes (Type 2 Diabetes)
Check your blood glucose on waking. If your blood glucose is less than 5 mmol/l, or you feel that your blood glucose level may be low, have a small glass of a sugar-containing drink. Inform the nurse on arrival in the Endoscopy unit that you have done this. A nurse will check your blood glucose level when you arrive in the Endoscopy Unit.

- Do not take your morning dose of tablets; bring your tablets with you to have after the procedure
- Report to the nursing staff if you have needed glucose before arriving and inform them immediately if you feel 'hypo' at any time during your visit
- Your dosage of tablets can be given as soon as you are able to eat and drink safely; the nursing staff will inform you when it is safe.

Insulin-controlled diabetes
- Monitor your blood glucose at least 4 times during the day, but ideally you should monitor even more frequently than this. Continue to take your daily insulin injections, but the amount you take may need to be altered according to how your blood glucose levels are behaving and how much carbohydrate containing drinks you are taking. In general, insulin doses often need to be reduced by one quarter to one third.
- You should reduce your evening insulin injection by one third, unless your blood glucose levels are running very high (e.g. greater than 15 mmols/l) when you should leave your dose unaltered.
- If you have concerns about adjusting your insulin dosage please contact the Diabetes Specialist Nurses on 0131 242 1470, to discuss appropriate measures. You can also contact the diabetes doctor on call on 0131 537 1000 and ask to speak to the diabetes doctor.

Carrying glucose to treat hypoglycaemia
If you are on tablets or insulin for your diabetes, then on the day before and day of the procedure, carry glucose tablets (Dextrosol) in case of hypoglycaemia. As these are absorbed quickly through the tissues of the mouth, if sucked, they will not interfere with the procedure. Take three (3) tablets initially, followed by a further three (3) if symptoms continue after 15 minutes. If your medication has been adjusted this should not be a problem.

Blood glucose monitoring
If you usually test your blood glucose levels, check them, as usual, on the morning of the procedure and carry your equipment with you to the appointment. If you do not usually test your blood, do not worry, your blood glucose levels will be checked when you arrive for the procedure.
Location of the Endoscopy Unit
The endoscopy unit is located within the Medical Daycase Unit of the Royal Infirmary

Directions to the Medical Day Case Unit

If entering via North Junction Road/Car park B: Entrance signed Day Case & Day Surgery (No.2 on map) adjacent to Main Front Entrance (West)

If entering via South Junction Road/Car park C: Enter the hospital through Main Rear Entrance (East). Continue through main mall and exit at Main Front Entrance (West). Turn left and enter at Day Case & Day Surgery (No.2 on map).

Please report to reception desk on arrival.

Plan of the hospital and grounds. Entrance to Endoscopy Unit is at “2”
Location of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.
The hospital is on the south side of Edinburgh on old Dalkeith Road (A7).
The full address is:
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, 51 Little France Crescent, Old Dalkeith Road, EH16 4SA

By Public Transport

The following services stop at the hospital, either at the West main entrance bus stop, or close by on Old Dalkeith Road.

- LRT 8, Muirhouse to Little France
- LRT 18, Gyle Centre to Little France
- LRT 21, Gyle Centre to Little France
- LRT 24, Davidson’s Mains to Little France
- LRT 33 & N33 Baberton Mains to Little France
- LRT 38, Muirhouse to Little France
- LRT 49, The Jewel to NRIE
- Munros 51 or 52, Edinburgh to Jedburgh or Kelso respectively.
- First 79, Haymarket to Rosewell
- First 86, Clerwood to Mayfield
- Eve Car and Coaches 128, Haddington to Little France
- First 140 & 142, Rosewell to NRIE, passing Musselburgh

Please note that the proposed services and timetables may have changed by the time of your appointment, therefore you are advised to check the details by contacting the City of Edinburgh Council’s Traveline or the bus operator on the numbers below.

Contact details for full timetables or further information are:
Lothian Buses: 0131 555 6363  www.lothianbuses.co.uk
First Edinburgh: 0131 663 9233  www.firstedinburgh.co.uk
Stagecoach: 01592 642394  www.stagecoachbus.com/fife
Munros: 01835 862253
Traveline 0800 23 23 23

By car:

Directions from City Centre – Leave the city centre via North Bridge at the East end of Princes Street. Follow this road for approx. two and a half miles until you reach the Liberton Road/Lady Road junction. Turn left on to Lady Road. Go straight over the Lady Road roundabout to the Cameron Toll roundabout. Take the 3rd exit sign posted to Dalkeith and New Royal Infirmary (A7). Continue on this road for around ¾ mile. The hospital is on the left hand side.

Directions from Bypass – Leave the Edinburgh City Bypass (A720) at the Sheriffhall Roundabout onto Old Dalkeith Road (A7) toward Edinburgh City Centre. Turn right into the hospital after just over 2 miles.
Entry to the site is via two access roads, one to the north and one to the south of the site. The nearest Car Park and drop off point to our department is reached by entering the North Junction road.

Please use Car Park B and enter the Hospital by the entrance signed Day Case & Day Surgery.

There are free disabled parking spaces located near the main entrances. The current parking charges for all other patients and visitors are:

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<td>£5.20</td>
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<td>6-24 hours</td>
<td>£7.00</td>
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**By bicycle/motorbike:**

New cycle/bus lane from Cameron Toll to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh via Old Dalkeith Road, as well as improvements to the cycle and footpaths on Craigmillar Castle Road, may make this an option for some patients and visitors.

There is currently provision to park both bicycles and motorbikes on site, free of charge. Motorcycle parking is within marked spaces out with the car parks at various points around the perimeter of the building. Cycle parking is available close to all the entrances to the building, in the form of Sheffield stands. CCTV monitors these areas at all times.
Patient Details

Consent Form
Patient agreement to endoscopic investigation or treatment

**Name of procedure/s** *(include a brief explanation if the medical term is not clear)*

**Oesophago-Gastro Duodenoscopy (OGD) with Variceal Banding / Injection**

Investigation of the upper gastrointestinal tract and treatment of varices with banding and/or injection therapy (with or without biopsy, photography)

**Biopsy samples will be retained**

**Statement of patient**

You have the right to change your mind at any time, including after you have signed this form

I have read and understood the information in the attached booklet including the benefits and any risks.

I agree to the procedure described in the booklet and on this form.

I understand that you cannot give me a guarantee that a particular person will perform the procedure. The person will, however, have appropriate experience. If a trainee performs this examination it will be performed under supervision by a fully qualified practitioner.

I would like to have:  local anaesthetic throat spray ☐  sedation ☐  Please tick box

Signed (patient) __________________________  Date __________________________

Name (print in capitals) __________________________

If you would like to ask further questions please do not sign the form now. Bring it with you and you can sign it after you have spoken to the healthcare professional.

**Confirmation of consent**
*(To be completed by a healthcare professional when patient is admitted for procedure)*

I have confirmed that the patient/guardian understands what the procedure involves, including the benefits and any risks

I have confirmed that the patient/guardian has no further questions and wishes for the procedure to go ahead

Signed __________________________  Date __________________________

Name (print in capitals) __________________________  Designation __________________________

*(If your patient requires further information please complete page 3 of this consent form)*
Patient Details

Consent Form - COPY
Patient agreement to endoscopic investigation or treatment

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Name (print in capitals) ____________________________________________________

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Signed __________________________ Date __________________________

Name (print in capitals) __________________________ Designation __________________________

(If your patient requires further information please complete page 3 of this consent form)
Statement of healthcare professional (to be completed by a healthcare professional with appropriate knowledge of proposed procedure, as specified in the consent policy)

In response to a request for further information I have explained the procedure to the patient. In particular I have explained:

The intended benefits
1. Investigation of symptoms
2. Endoscopic therapy

Potential Risks
1. Procedure risks:
2. Sedation risks:

I have also discussed what the procedure is likely to involve, the benefits and risks of any available alternative investigations/treatments (including no treatment), any extra procedures, which may become necessary and any particular concerns of those involved.

Signed __________________________ Date __________________________

Name (print in capitals) __________________________ Designation __________________________

Statement of interpreter where appropriate

I have interpreted the information above to the patient/guardian to the best of my ability and in a way in which I believe she/he/they can understand.

Signed __________________________ Date __________________________

Name (print in capitals) __________________________