



## What happens during an EGD?

1. When you come for the EGD, the doctor will talk to you about the test and answer any questions. You should know why you are having an EGD and understand the treatment options and possible risks.
2. You will wear a hospital gown and be asked to remove any eye glasses, contact lenses or dentures. An IV will be started and blood may be drawn for lab studies. You may receive antibiotics through the IV.
3. You will be asked to sign a consent form which gives the doctor your permission to do the test.
4. You will be taken by stretcher to the procedure room. The nurse will help you get into the correct position, usually on your side, and make you comfortable. A medicine will be sprayed onto the back of your throat to make it numb. The medicine may taste unpleasant but it will stop any coughing during the test and the taste will go away quickly. A plastic guard will be placed in your mouth to protect your teeth during the test.
5. A blood pressure cuff will be put on your arm or leg. A small clip will be put on your finger. These will let the nurse check your blood pressure and heart rate frequently during the test.
6. You will be given medicine through the IV to make you relaxed and sleepy. When you are sleepy, the doctor will place a thin, flexible tube (endoscope) through the mouth guard and into your mouth. The endoscope has a small video camera on the end that lets the doctor see the inside of your esophagus.
7. The doctor will ask you to swallow. When you swallow, the endoscope will move down your esophagus, the same way food goes down when

you eat. You may feel like gagging, but should not feel any pain. This will not interfere with your breathing.

8. The doctor will guide the endoscope through your stomach and into your small intestine. This will allow the doctor to see the lining of your upper digestive system and treat any problems found.
9. When the test is done, the doctor will slowly take out the endoscope. Your EGD will last between 10 and 20 minutes.

## What happens after my EGD?

1. After the EGD, you will be taken to the recovery area to relax. Your blood pressure and heart rate are watched while you rest. You will wake up in about 30 minutes to an hour.
2. After removing your IV, the nurse will give you written instructions to follow when you go home. If you have any questions, please ask. The doctor will talk to you about your test before you leave.
3. Even if you feel awake, your judgement and reflexes will be slow. You will not be allowed to leave unless an adult takes you home. Again, you will NOT be able to drive.
4. If treatments were done during your test, you may need to be observed overnight.

## Over the next 24 hours ...

- You will need to rest quietly until the next day.
- After the test, you may feel bloated and pass gas. This is normal and will go away in a few hours.
- You may resume your regular diet and medications after the procedure.

- Your throat may be sore for a few days.
- Do not drive, operate machinery, sign legal documents or make important decisions.
- Do not drink alcohol or take sleeping/nerve pills.

## What are the risks of EGD?

- A tender lump may form where the IV was placed. The lump may not go away for several weeks. You will need to call your doctor if redness, pain or swelling in this hand or arm lasts for more than two days.
- The medicines may make you sick. You may have nausea, vomiting, hives, dry mouth, or a reddened face and neck.
- Severe problems are rare, but can happen. These include bleeding or tearing (perforation) of the digestive system. If any of these problems happen, you will have to stay in the hospital. Surgery may be needed.
- Your doctor will discuss these risks with you.

## Call the doctor if you ...

- have severe pain.
- vomit.
- pass or vomit blood.
- have chills and fever above 101 degrees.

If you have any problems, call your specialist. If it is after regular business hours, page the "GI Doctor on Call" through the MUSC paging operator at (843) 792-2123.



**MUSC Health**  
DIGESTIVE DISEASE CENTER

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