

Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)

- Your appointment is on: (date) _____ (time) _____
- With Dr. _____
- **YOU MUST ARRIVE AT:** _____ (One hour before scheduled appointment time)

What is the test?

You will be having a test called an endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, or ERCP, for short. During this test, the doctor will examine your feeding tube (esophagus), your stomach, your gallbladder, pancreas, liver and their ducts. The doctor uses a special instrument called an endoscope, which is a long, flexible tube, similar to a telescope. You will be in our office about 2 to 4 hours, which is from the time you arrive in the office until the time you are ready to leave.

How should I get ready?

To prepare you for this examination, you may eat dinner the night before the test, **BUT DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT.** Your stomach must be empty of food so that the doctor can see clearly.

What else should I know?

1. If you are taking aspirin, ibuprofen, arthritis or non-steroidal medications, please check with your primary care physician. You may need to be off these medications for several days if your primary care physician advises it. You may take plain Tylenol for pain.
2. If you are taking Coumadin or iron pills, please check with your primary care physician. You may need to be off these medicines for several days if your primary care physician advises it.
3. If you are diabetic, do not take your usual dose of insulin or oral medication on the day of the test. Check with your primary care physician about your insulin and oral medication dose. It is a good idea to bring your insulin and a syringe with you to the exam.
4. If you take blood pressure, heart, asthma or seizure or other medicines in the morning, you may take them with small sips of water at 6 a.m. on the day of the test.
5. Be sure that you know the names and doses of your medications or that you bring a list of your medications with you to the exam.
6. Be sure that you tell the doctor or nurse if you have a heart murmur, an artificial heart valve or any artificial joints, or if you are pregnant.
7. Please arrange to bring a friend or family member with you to the exam. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE YOURSELF HOME AFTER THE EXAM. YOU CANNOT USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE SOMEONE TO ACCOMPANY YOU HOME AFTER THE EXAM, YOU WILL HAVE TO RESCHEDULE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- 8.** If you cannot keep your appointment, please call at least 72 hours in advance. Call 312-942-5861 to cancel or reschedule.

On the day of the test.

Plan to arrive **ONE HOUR** before your scheduled appointment time, so that you can register at the Outpatient Registration desk: 4th Floor, Atrium Building, 1650 W. Harrison St., Chicago. You will need to have proof of insurance. Let the registration staff know you are having an ERCP. After registering you will be directed to Interventional Radiology, where they will admit and recover you.

If you do not have someone with you to drive or escort you home after the test, you will have to reschedule.

The exam

For the test, you will undress and put on a hospital gown. The nurse will ask you questions about your health and then place a needle (IV) in your hand or arm. You will need to sign a permission slip that will allow the doctor to perform the exam. The nurse will help you onto a cart and you will be taken to the X-ray department.

Your throat will be sprayed with a medicine to help numb it. You will be instructed to lie on your left side or abdomen. The doctor will give you medicine through the IV, which will make you relax and feel sleepy. The nurse will be monitoring your blood pressure, heart rate and breathing. After the procedure, you will be taken to the recovery area.

After the exam

It will take you about 30 to 60 minutes to wake up from the medicine. You will be in the recovery area, where a nurse will be monitoring your blood pressure, heart rate and breathing. The doctor will discuss the results of the exam with you once you are awake. You will receive instructions to take home with you.

**YOU MUST HAVE SOMEONE WITH YOU TO HELP YOU GET HOME AFTER THE EXAM.
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DRIVE.**

Questions?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 312-942-5861.