



GASTROSCOPY (Endoscopy)

Endoscopy is an investigation to examine the lining of the oesophagus, stomach and the duodenum. Intravenous sedation (a light anaesthetic) is used and the throat sprayed before a special flexible tube is passed through the mouth. Through this tube, which is connected to a screen similar to a television, the Doctor is able to see what is happening in your stomach. You should not feel or remember anything about the procedure.

Biopsies, which are quite painless, are often taken for examination under a microscope.

PREPARATION FOR GASTROSCOPY

It is most important to have a totally empty stomach prior to this procedure being performed. You will need to phone the hospital, the day before the procedure, to ask what time you will be required to attend.

Do not have anything to eat or drink from midnight the night before your endoscopy.

What complications can occur?

Complications are extremely rare. Perforation of the oesophagus has been reported and this could require surgery.

Any complication is possible,(for instance, strokes, heart attack etc,) even death. Nonetheless it is a very safe procedure.